

KAPPA ALPHA

AUTUMN 2016

# THE TA

MAGAZINE



**MODERN STYLE FOR  
MODERN WOMEN**

JESSICA LEE, ΦΔ/STANFORD (PAGE 10)



# SitetoSee

MUST-SEE WEB PICK OF THE QUARTER

## THETA SPOTLIGHTS OUR MEMBERS

We love to recognize our members for their achievements—both within the Fraternity and throughout their communities! Visit these pages to see how Thetas are making a difference.

### notable thetas

Honors alumnae throughout Theta's history who have made remarkable contributions to their professions or the larger community.

[heritage.kappaalphatheta.org/page/notablethetas](http://heritage.kappaalphatheta.org/page/notablethetas)



**COLETTE BRIDGMAN NIAZMAND**  
ZP/UC SAN DIEGO

Director, Tesla  
global marketing

### leading women spotlight



**DR. LISA SPARKS**  
AO/OKLAHOMA

Advisory board  
chairman

Honors an alumna or collegian who has been recognized for leadership in her profession or academic career or as a volunteer in her community or on her campus.

[kappaalphatheta.org/iamatheta/leadingwomenspotlight](http://kappaalphatheta.org/iamatheta/leadingwomenspotlight)

### volunteer spotlight

Applauds a Theta volunteer who has made an impact within her local chapter or on the Fraternity as a whole.

[www.kappaalphatheta.org/alumnae/volunteer/volunteer\\_spotlight.cfm](http://www.kappaalphatheta.org/alumnae/volunteer/volunteer_spotlight.cfm)



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HO/NORTH FLORIDA

Budget district  
director and  
permanent alumnae  
secretary (PAS)

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#### CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Sierk Corridan, BO/Iowa

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#### FRATERNITY HEADQUARTERS

8740 Founders Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46268-1300

P 317.876.1870

1.800.526.1870

F 317.876.1925

E [info@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:info@kappaalphatheta.org)

[www.kappaalphatheta.org](http://www.kappaalphatheta.org)

#### SEND COPY & CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Elizabeth Rinck, Editor  
KAO Fraternity Headquarters,  
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 150  
[lrinck@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:lrinck@kappaalphatheta.org)

#### SEND NOTICES OF DEATHS TO:

KAO Fraternity Headquarters,  
Attn.: Membership Coordinator  
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 107  
[gbrown@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:gbrown@kappaalphatheta.org)

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# TELLING THE THETA STORY

HISTORY HAS BEEN ON YOUR EDITOR'S MIND LATELY. SPECIFICALLY, THETA HISTORY.

BY LIZ APPEL RINCK, Γ/BUTLER

Every so often—generally during National Women's History Month—we receive emails from members wondering why a women's organization continues to use the sexist term history. Instead of *history* ("his story"), shouldn't we adopt the more women-centric *herstory*?

Of course we don't want to employ language that reinforces bias! So we are happy to explain that the etymology of *history* is not, in fact, discriminatory. It's based on a Greek concept, *historia*, which means "knowledge inquired by investigation."

But just because the definition of history isn't "his story," that doesn't mean stories aren't an incredibly important component of history. In studying history, we discover our own place in the stories of our families, communities, and nation. More specifically, by studying Theta's history, we discover the stories of the women who came before us and shaped this organization, gain inspiration and role models to help us meet the complex challenges of today and tomorrow, and build a stronger organization through traditions and commemorations.

Of course, through stories—both personal and organizational—we also forge Theta connections.

Happily, there have never been more vehicles available to help us share our stories. After all, what is a Facebook post but a very short story we tell friends who may live across the continent and who we may not have seen in a few decades? What is a tweet but an even shorter story? What is an Instagram or Snapchat message but a story told in photos or videos? As purveyors of stories, social media outlets have joined older media like email and websites, as well as practically ancient media ... like magazines.

While we're on the subject of magazines, *The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine* has been a primary teller of Theta stories since the first issue rolled off the press in 1885. As the editor, I find the relationship between our publication and our organization fascinating. In our magazine, we tell the story of Theta to the world, but we also tell the story of Theta to one another; and in doing both these, we actually help create the story of Theta. I'm reminded of those Russian nesting dolls: layers within layers within layers.

In fact, this issue of the Theta magazine reflects the interdependency of stories and history.

On page 4, you can read a short story about Theta's role in Indiana's bicentennial. As part of the state's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, notable Hoosiers carried an Olympic-style torch across the state, and Bettie Locke Hamilton was selected to be a posthumous torchbearer. It turns out that not only was Bettie one of the first women students at Indiana Asbury (now DePauw) and the founder of the first Greek-letter fraternity for women, she also belonged to a family with deep ties to education in Indiana. Her grandmother operated a boarding school, one of the first established for young women in the state. Go to [facebook.com/KappaAlphaTheta](https://facebook.com/KappaAlphaTheta) and type "torch" into the search field to watch a video of Kerri Hemmelgarn, CEO of the Alpha Chapter at DePauw, carry the torch for Bettie.

On page 12, you can learn more about the ways we'll share the story of Theta's sesquicentennial, including the debut of a new video on Founders Day and our year-long celebration of Alice Allen Brant in 2017. You can view a trailer of the video by visiting [youtube.com/user/KappaAlphaTheta](https://youtube.com/user/KappaAlphaTheta) and choosing "Looking Ahead to 150 Years of Theta."

On pages 16 through 21, you will find the story of Theta's 72<sup>nd</sup> Grand Convention, including friendships formed and renewed, chapters and individuals recognized for excellence, and leaders chosen for the next biennium. Besides being a recap of events and a gallery of photographs, this story—along with the transcript of the business sessions, which you can find by logging in to [kappaalphatheta.org](https://kappaalphatheta.org) and typing 2016 Business Session Proceedings in the Search field—will become the official record of Grand Convention 2016.

We hope you, dear reader, will enjoy these stories with their ties to Theta history, as well as all the other stories contained within this issue. ♦

ON THE COVER: Jessica Lee, Phi deuterion/Stanford.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW, KAPPA ALPHA THETA EXISTS TO NURTURE EACH MEMBER THROUGHOUT HER COLLEGE AND ALUMNA EXPERIENCE AND TO OFFER LIFELONG OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND MORAL GROWTH AS SHE MEETS THE HIGHER AND BROADER DEMANDS OF MATURE LIFE.

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#### Notices:

• Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student group at Harvard, Santa Clara, and Georgetown Universities, these schools prohibit using "Harvard," "Santa Clara," or "Georgetown" in any published reference to our Zeta Xi, Eta Lambda, and Theta Iota Chapters.



## CEOs OF SORORITY ROW

"The CEOs of Sorority Row," an article in *The Atlantic*.com (Sept. 9) quoted **Devon Naftzger, Epsilon Mu/Princeton**, on the potential confluence of the increasing number of college women studying STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields and the increasing number of college women who join NPC (National Panhellenic Conference) groups. An investment-banking analyst and former CEO of Epsilon Mu, Naftzger pointed out that fulfilling the responsibilities of chapter CEO is tantamount to holding a full-time job while being a student and that the position helped her hone leadership skills and make meaningful connections.

The article also quoted **Jenni Broughton Schmaltz, Gamma/Butler**, Kappa Alpha Theta chief operating officer, who explained the rationale behind Theta's changes to college chapter officer titles in 2011. Moving from general titles like *president* and *vice president* to more specific titles like CEO and CFO helps make officers' duties "... more transferrable to the 'real world.'" Since officer duties can involve managing a million-dollar budget or overseeing operations for a chapter with 400 members—valuable experience in any field—"The

titles add creditability to the work our chapter officers are doing," Schmaltz said in the article.

## COMMITMENT TO CASA

Each year at CASA's annual conference, Theta presents the Kappa Alpha Theta CASA/GAL Program Director of the Year Award. This year, the recipient was Zane Grant of CASA of Pueblo County, Colorado. After the conference, Grant said, "I can't begin to describe how I felt at the National CASA Conference in DC earlier this month when I received my award for the Program Director of the Year. It was a complete honor and what made it even more special was having a group of Thetas there to cheer me on and present the award to me!"

Grant was selected for this honor because of his vision of leadership for the CASA of Pueblo County program. It had been closed due to a lack of support from the community and a shortage of volunteers, but Grant turned everything around, re-opening the program to serve 22 children with a one-person staff and eight volunteers and expanding it to serve 320 children with a nine-person staff and more than 130 volunteers. ♦

## WRITE TO US!

Do you have a comment about an article in this or any other issue of *The Magazine*? Do you know an accomplished Theta who would be a good subject for a profile article? Do you have a Theta issue on your mind?

Then let us hear from you! We are pleased to receive letters from our readers; we value your input. Correspondence by regular mail or email may be sent to the editor. (Addresses are listed on page 2.)

## WHAT'S NEW?

Is there some exciting news about yourself or your chapter that you'd like to share with other Thetas? Let us know! A submission form may be found in *The Magazine* area of the Theta website, or you may send items via email or snail mail to the editor. Addresses are listed on page 2. Please include your name and chapter of affiliation with each submission.

## REUNIONS

Learn about upcoming reunions at [kappaalphatheta.org/alumni/events/reunions](http://kappaalphatheta.org/alumni/events/reunions).

## PLANNING A REUNION?

Place a reunion notice in *The Magazine* and on the Theta website. Mail a brief notice to Reunions, *The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, and email [webmaster@kappaalpha-theta.org](mailto:webmaster@kappaalpha-theta.org).

Notices for reunions to be held May through July must be received by January 31; for August through October, received by April 11; for November through January, received by July 11; and for February through April, by October 23.



## CARRYING THE TORCH FOR BETTIE

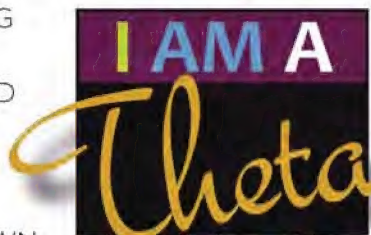
On September 22, Bettie Locke Hamilton returned—in spirit at least—to the DePauw campus that she so loved. The occasion was the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay, a event organized to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Indiana's statehood. Notable Hoosiers were chosen through a nomination process and carried a replica of the torch pictured on the state flag through all 92 Indiana counties.

Because nominations could include deceased notables, Theta submitted Bettie's name, and she was selected as a posthumous torchbearer! **Kerri Hemmelgarn**, chief executive officer of **Alpha Chapter**, carried the torch through the DePauw campus, not only in honor of Bettie, but also in celebration of the many Thetas in Indiana and across the continent who live every day by the ideals established by our founders.

The family of **Carole Cones Bradfield, Alpha/DePauw**, Bettie's great-granddaughter and last surviving direct descendant, watched Bettie's portion of the relay and attended an open house at the Alpha Chapter house. Sadly, Carole herself had passed away only a few weeks before.



"I AM A THETA" IS SOMETHING WE ALL SAY WITH PRIDE, WHETHER WE JUST RECEIVED A BID DAY CARD OR A 75-YEAR MEMBER PIN. THE FONDNESS WE HAVE FOR THETA COMES FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCES—THE PEOPLE WE MEET, THE TIME WE SPEND TOGETHER, AND THE STORIES WE TELL. THESE STORIES ARE



WHAT CONNECT US TO ONE ANOTHER AND STRENGTHEN OUR SISTERHOOD. WE ALL HAVE A THETA STORY TO TELL. TAKE JUST A MINUTE TO REMEMBER ONE OF YOURS, AND SHARE IT AT KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG.

YOU CAN ALSO READ THETA STORIES SUBMITTED BY OTHER MEMBERS.

## THETA THOUGHTS AFTER GRAND CONVENTION

In the summer of 2015, a few very wise people encouraged me to check out Kappa Alpha Theta, the newest sorority to be installed on the University of Rochester campus. I joined and became chief executive officer, and this past year has challenged me personally and interpersonally, socially and intellectually. I have gone through more instances of doubt, confusion, frustration, and sleeplessness than I ever dreamed possible, but I have found that the rewards have been well worth it.

Greek life can get a bad rap sometimes, and I myself have had moments of cynicism in the past, but I've grown to a better, more loving person because of my involvement in my chapter. Nowhere else have I felt so connected to complete strangers and so proud of what we have worked for as a chapter. The women I have met in Kappa Alpha Theta are on to great things because they are unbelievably talented and dedicated. Greek life is not what is often portrayed in the media; it is, rather, a community that fosters self-confidence and motivation in every member and has positively impacted so many lives around the world.

Thank you to my friends who challenged me to do this, thank you to everyone who has helped me in times of stress, and thank you to everyone in Theta with whom I have had the joy of getting to know. A special thank-you to everyone who is involved with Theta Lambda and attended Grand Convention with me! You each inspire me every day.

Especially after attending Grand Convention this June, I find myself as part of an organization of truly leading women. The members of our chapter are some of the most interesting, intelligent, and kind people in my life, and all of the people I met that weekend amazed me with their friendliness, dedication, and personality. From the woman attending her 26<sup>th</sup> Convention and who knows all the secrets of stashing Convention brownies, to the women of a few chapters around the country who "adopted" me over the weekend as one of their own, to the random connections with a woman whose older sister works at the company where I'm interning, attending Grand Convention has made me realize that we are part of something much larger than we see every day at school, and it is beautiful.

Jackie Meyer, ΘΛ/Rochester, is the chapter's chief executive officer.

## AN INVESTMENT THAT KEEPS GIVING BACK

As I write this greeting, I have just returned from a lake-side gathering of several of my Alpha Chi sisters. Our home addresses are scattered through the northeast, the southeast, the Midwest and the west, and yet the home we shared during those college years continues to link us together. We share glad times and sad times, and continue to be "there" for one another in a way that we treasure. We are grateful that Theta has bound us in sisterhood since 1964.

We recently celebrated an event I recommend to everyone. We shared a reunion with two classes ahead of us and two classes behind us, and held it at our chapter house. Some of the college members who lived nearby joined us for dinner one evening, which was followed by sharing songs in the living room.

Purdue has a vital Greek community, and many sorority houses, including the Alpha Chi house, expanded in the early 1990s to accommodate more members. We were struck by the fact that our chapter house carried a mortgage from that expansion. We also noted that much of the public space was in need of a facelift, and that the facility corporation board (FCB) needed members. Fully energized by our stay at the chapter house and our interactions with the college members, several of us began to work with Fraternity headquarters to update relevant documents, hold an annual meeting, and offer ourselves as FCB members.

What a wonderful journey it has been and continues to be. We updated our database, created an alumnae website, and launched a newsletter that had been dormant for many years. We completed an exceptionally successful capital campaign to pay off nearly 90 percent of our mortgage. We arranged a beautiful and fun-filled weekend to celebrate our chapter's centennial. As I write this, the first floor of our chapter house is being renovated. Throughout this process, we have made new friends and reconnected with old ones.

Time is such a gift to each of us. None of us is given more than 24 hours a day. We choose how to invest that time. Work, family, and friends, as well as other good works, compete for our talents. I can say of my volunteer experience, as I can say of my college experience, Theta remains an investment that gives back to me in countless ways.

Mary Lincoln Campbell, AX/Purdue, is Alpha Chi's facility corporation board president. ♦

## SHARE STORIES

Visit the I Am a Theta area of [kappaalphatheta.org](http://kappaalphatheta.org) to browse our stories and learn more about submitting your own. (Login required for submissions.)



Jackie Meyer, ΘΛ/Rochester



Mary Lincoln Campbell, AX/Purdue

*"We are part of something much larger than we see everyday at school, and it is beautiful."*



\$5,200,000

# Thank You!

Together, we have raised \$5.2 million and have ensured Kappa Alpha Theta remains forever at the forefront of women's leadership and learning.



Photo courtesy of Greek Yearbook

Whether Theta Foundation asked for your support to write letters or host fundraising events, or met with you in-person, over the phone, or via social media as part of our inaugural Giving Tuesday fundraiser, you responded!

In total, more than 2,400 Thetas, family members, and friends gave gifts of all sizes to the Campaign and made *Give to Lead, Give to Learn* a resounding success. This success was made possible not only thanks to the financial gifts of our loyal, dedicated, and generous donors, but also the gifts of time and talent that were shared by our college chapter letter writers and fundraisers, Campaign volunteers, and staff.

The fundraising for *Give to Lead, Give to Learn* has concluded, but the impact from the Campaign is just beginning. Thank you for helping the Educational Leadership Consultant and need-based scholarship programs serve our members today and tomorrow. Thank you for helping Kappa Alpha Theta soar even higher.

All Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation *Give to Lead, Give to Learn* donors will receive a copy of the 2015–2016 Annual Report in November 2016 that will feature the *Give to Lead, Give to Learn* donor list. The annual report and donor list will also be available online in November.



*Give* to Lead.  
to Learn.  
A Theta Investment for Today and Tomorrow



## AN EXCLUSIVE THETA TOTE BAG

THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND **ALICE TOTE** IS THE PERFECT BAG FOR ALL YOUR EVERYDAY NEEDS! IT'S CONSTRUCTED IN A CUSTOM THETA FABRIC NAMED AFTER FOUNDER **ALICE ALLEN BRANT** AND DESIGNED BY **JEN COLEMAN**, FHC INTERIOR DESIGN COMMITTEE MEMBER. THE FABRIC DESIGN IS INSPIRED BY THETA'S KITE, AND THE YARNS ARE SPECIALLY COLORED TO REFLECT THETA'S SIGNATURE BLACK AND GOLD. THE ALICE TOTE IS MADE FOR THETAS ON THE GO; WHETHER YOU'RE RUNNING TO CLASS, TAKING THE KIDS TO SCHOOL, OR CARRYING PAPERWORK TO THE OFFICE, THIS TOTE IS THE IDEAL CARRYALL.



The Alice tote bag is available in limited quantities for \$49.99, so purchase yours today by visiting [kappaalphathetahousing.org](http://kappaalphathetahousing.org) and clicking the shop link.



### FHC INTERIOR DESIGNER FEATURED IN *HOUSE BEAUTIFUL* MAGAZINE

FHC interior design committee member **Jen Coleman**, **Delta Epsilon/Arizona State**, was recently asked by the editors of *House Beautiful* magazine to share her favorite wall color for guest rooms in a regular feature on paint. When asked about being published, Jen states, "I feel so incredibly honored to be part of this magazine and article. This is my favorite column each month and I am beyond thrilled to be part of it. It's surreal to see my name in print along with so many talented designers!" The FHC interior design committee members donate their time and talents to Theta houses all over the continent while they continue to run their own businesses and serve their clients. ♦



# 2017 Founders Day & Friendship Fund Message

Each year on January 27, Thetas everywhere pause in our busy lives to observe Founders Day. We pause to celebrate the birth of the first Greek-letter fraternity known among women; to celebrate everything that Theta has given and continues to give us; to celebrate four young women who walked into the chapel at Asbury College, wearing their Theta badges.

As we near our sesquicentennial in 2020, each Founders Day seems to gain additional significance. In fact, Founders Day 2016 marked the official beginning of our sesquicentennial celebration. On that day, we dedicated each of the next four years to one of our founders, because—while they founded Theta together—each was an individual, with her own character, abilities, and interests.

This year, we honor Alice Allen Brant, whose life helped shape Theta's past and was the inspiration for one of the aims that continue to shape our future: highest scholarship. She also embodied one of the traits—perseverance—that forms Kappa Alpha Theta's motto. Alice herself liked to tell a story that illustrates both her dedication to her studies and her determination. Living about five miles from Greencastle, Alice rode her horse to school every day her freshman year. But she didn't always have a ride home. On occasion, the horse, named Kate, would break her halter and head back to the farm before Alice was ready, leaving her to walk the five miles home.

Despite the obstacles—both amusing and more serious—she faced, Alice graduated from Asbury and became a teacher (earning the highest level of teaching certificate) and a high school principal.



Today, Alice's legacy is reflected in our ideal of supporting each member as she seeks to fully develop her intellectual, cultural, and social potential. It's not just our Fraternity that is devoted to this commitment. So, too, is our Fraternity Housing Corporation, as it prioritizes dedicated learning environments in the facilities it manages. So, too, is Theta Foundation, leading the Greek community in awarding more than \$500,000 each year in undergraduate and graduate scholarships. And this commitment by all three Theta entities resonates strongly nearly 150 years after our founding—as demonstrated by the colleges and universities that are eager to welcome a Theta chapter to their campuses. In fact, between autumn of 2016 and autumn of 2017, we will reestablish three former college chapters and establish four new ones, and set a record for the most chapters chartered during one academic term!

Imagine how pleased Alice—who co-founded Theta to provide support to women in their fight to earn an education equal to those offered to men—would be to know of this expansion. Imagine how pleased she would be by these increased opportunities to provide opportunities for learning and growth. This Founders Day, we celebrate Alice Allen Brant and her commitment to taking risks, to personal growth, and to leading others by example.

Loyally,

*Laura W Doerre*

Laura Ware Doerre, ΔΕ/North Carolina  
Fraternity President

## OUR FOUNDING IDEALS

Founders Day gives us the opportunity to tangibly demonstrate Theta's ideals through the Friendship Fund. The Fund provides gifts to Thetas experiencing extreme financial hardship due to serious or terminal illness, job loss, natural disaster, and other devastating occurrences.

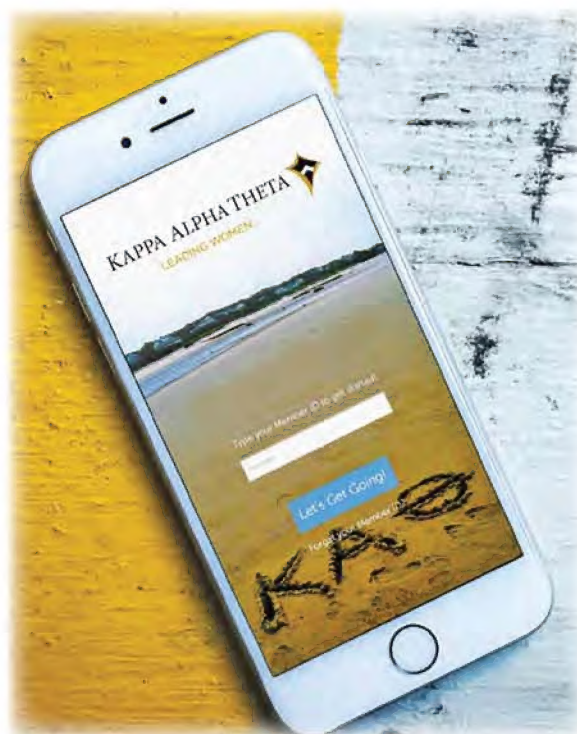
Traditionally, most gifts to the Friendship Fund are made on Founders Day; the suggested contribution is \$1 per year of membership. Another important tradition is the secrecy surrounding the giving of gifts. Two members write on the behalf of a sister, and the Friendship Fund committee determines the award amount. The requesters remain anonymous, and all records are confidential.

For more information about requesting help from the Friendship Fund for a Theta sister, please contact [friendshipfund@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:friendshipfund@kappaalphatheta.org) or call 888-526-1870, ext. 140. Gifts to the Friendship Fund may be effected by checks made payable to Kappa Alpha Theta, with "Friendship Fund" written on the memo line, and mailed to Kappa Alpha Theta, 8740 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268, attn.: Friendship Fund. ♦

*friendshipfund*



# Thetas Connect



Thetas connect at an informal dinner



Alpha Chapter Thetas connect in Italy



Dallas Thetas

## With ThetaConnect

**#ThetaConnectDay** events brought Thetas together in more than 20 states ... and abroad.

What was **#ThetaConnectDay**? A celebration on June 9 to launch our new mobile app, ThetaConnect. With ThetaConnect, Thetas can plan and send invitations to events, as well as attend events created by others. It's a fun, easy way to get together with sisters living nearby who have similar hobbies, interests, or career fields.

Like Thetas themselves, ThetaConnect is smart, creative, and powerful! See for yourself by downloading it at no cost from the App Store or Google Play. You will need your Theta member ID for login because only Thetas have access to ThetaConnect. Don't know your member ID? It's on the mailing label of this magazine. ◇

Your seven digit  
Member ID

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FLETCHER NC 28732-9499





Jessica Lee, ΦΔ/Stanford

AS THE FOUNDER OF MODERN CITIZEN, "AN ONLINE SHOPPING DESTINATION FOR THE MODERN WOMAN," **JESSICA LEE, ΦΔ/STANFORD**, SEEKS TO MAKE MODERN, REFINED STYLE ACCESSIBLE IN A WIDE BUDGET RANGE WITHOUT SACRIFICING QUALITY. BY ENCOURAGING PROFESSIONAL WOMEN TO FOCUS ON THEIR PATH TO THE CORNER OFFICE AND LEAVE DRESSING FOR THE JOB TO MODERN CITIZEN'S STYLE-SAVVY TEAM, LEE IS A...

# LEADING WOMAN

**JESSICA LEE, ΦΔ/STANFORD**

BY LAUREN MCCARTY PALMER, B/INDIANA

Jessica Lee's passion for online shopping began while working in Gap's e-commerce division. "Founding Modern Citizen was a culmination of my professional experience, especially in e-commerce, but also my deep, genuine interest in fashion as an industry," she said. "My parents were entrepreneurs, and I believe because of that I always knew I wanted to start a company and build a team."

Growing up in Los Angeles, Lee never imagined she would join a sorority, but she recognized the value of connecting during her freshman year. "I was missing that close-knit group of female friends and ended up being very fortunate to find that in my Theta experience. My best friends to this day are women I met because of Theta, and for that I'm incredibly thankful," she said. "Theta stood out to me because the Stanford chapter was filled with women who were smart, kind, and had a great sense of humor," she said. "The classes above me were also very diverse, which appealed to me as a woman of color."

Relationships—with her customers and with her team—continue to inspire Lee. "Every story that's shared about the most recent compliment they received, or how our pieces make them feel empowered when they're getting ready to face the day, is incredibly energizing," she said. "It reminds our entire team why we love what we do."

What advice would Lee offer to other Thetas? "Look for opportunities around you to explore and learn more about what dreams you want to pursue; those experiences will teach you about what resonates with you, and what might not be a great fit," she said. "That process of elimination will allow you to isolate and focus on your core strengths and how you can apply them to make your dreams a reality, whether that's starting your own business or becoming an invaluable member of a team."

If your fall wardrobe could use a shot of life, Lee will offer a special discount to first-time-Theta shoppers through the end of November using the coupon code "theta" at [www.modern-citizen.com](http://www.modern-citizen.com). ♦

**THETA**  
LEADING WOMEN



# Stephanie Spear & Gretchen Wherry West

## THETAS OF NOTE



"BRAVE NEW WORLD" IS A PHRASE THAT MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED—EITHER SERIOUSLY OR IRONICALLY—WITH REGULATORY POLICY AND LAWS GOVERNING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS), COMMONLY KNOWN AS DRONES. **GRETCHEN WHERRY WEST** AND **STEPHANIE SPEAR** MET AT A GOOGLE EVENT ON DRONES AND DISCOVERED THAT THEY SHARE NOT ONLY THIS INTEREST BUT ALSO SISTERHOOD IN KAPPA ALPHA THETA. BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF THE **EPSILON PSI CHAPTER AT RICHMOND**.

### TELL US SOMETHING WE PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT DRONES.

**Gretchen** Simpler versions of drone technology were used in World War II and the Vietnam War by our military and have continued to be used by global militaries. The mainstream drones that are available now are incredibly useful for many different applications. Drones are going to provide so many benefits to agriculture, to real estate, to disaster response, to search and rescue, to delivery of humanitarian aid, to energy inspection. Drones will revolutionize how businesses operate and will create great efficiencies.

**Stephanie** One of the most exciting applications for drones is in first-responder situations. Think about how disruptive any sort of natural disaster is to our systems such as phone lines, roadways, or the Internet. Drones can be used as tools to expedite rescues, administer first aid, and help communities back to normal faster.

### IF YOU COULD INVITE FIVE PEOPLE (LIVING OR DEAD) TO DINNER, WHO WOULD THEY BE?

**Stephanie** All four of my grandparents! I would invite them to dinner with my family so they could see their lineage in action and meet my super-cute nephews.

**Gretchen** How can you only limit a dinner party to five people? These guests cover the bases of work, philanthropy and leadership: President Obama; Senator Cory Booker; George Clooney; Diana, Princess of Wales; Ellen DeGeneres.

### WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

**Gretchen** Like any mother would say, my proudest accomplishment(s) are my children! Career-wise, I have been privileged to be part of an amazing industry with a tremendous group of people.

**Stephanie** Being a good friend, sister, auntie, and daughter.

### WHAT TALENT DO YOU WISH YOU HAD?

**Stephanie** I wish I could dance! I love seeing older folks at weddings dance formally. They are so elegant!

**Gretchen** I'm great at multi-tasking but wish I could sleep less so there was more time to do this important work!

### "LOOKING AT ME, NO ONE WOULD GUESS ..."

**Gretchen** I work in the drone industry!

**Stephanie** I'm an introvert!

### WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

**Stephanie** Loyalty, reliability, humor, support, a sense of humor, an adventurous spirit, and the ability to be silly and laugh together!

**Gretchen** Honesty, loyalty, a positive attitude, professionalism and fun! Friends who become your chosen family are what create a well-rounded life!

### WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST THETA MEMORY?

**Gretchen** The camaraderie with other women and the actual feeling of being part of a sisterhood.

**Stephanie** Sunday night chapter meetings. It was so special to start the week with the encouragement and camaraderie of my sisters.

### WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?

**Stephanie** It's a fantastic charge! Theta and its values embody what it means to be a leader, to be creative in your thinking, and to take ownership of the journey to your successes. I truly believe that women have and will continue to improve this world, and Theta is an excellent start to your path to greatness!

**Gretchen** I'm very passionate about women becoming strong, independent leaders in their fields. Theta's tagline is about more than sisterhood; it's about enabling, mentoring, and fostering growth in women. ♦



Stephanie Spear, EΨ/Richmond



Gretchen Wherry West, EΨ/Richmond

*"Friends who become your chosen family are what create a well-rounded life!"*





# CELEBRATING 150

## **Celebrating a Special Video**

Happy memories shared with very special people.... A shoulder to cry on when things go wrong.... Being there when someone needs you.... A lifelong sisterhood.

Kappa Alpha Theta has given all of these to all of us.

Over the next three years, as we approach the 150th anniversary of our Fraternity's founding, we will celebrate in many ways all that Theta continues to offer. We'll officially begin with a special video in memory of our founders, in commemoration of their impact on us, and the impact we have had on one another. It will debut on Founders Day—January 27, 2017. In the meantime, you may view a preview—"Looking Ahead to 150 Years of Theta"—on the Fraternity's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/user/KappaAlphaTheta](https://youtube.com/user/KappaAlphaTheta)).

## **Celebrating Lifelong Learning**

In 2020, Kappa Alpha Theta will be 150 years old. To have not only survived but thrived for a century and a half is definitely cause for celebration!

There are many reasons for the enduring power of Theta sisterhood. Four reasons are our founders: Bettie Locke Hamilton, Alice Allen Brant, Hannah Fitch Shaw, and Bettie Tipton Lindsey.

Beginning in 2016 with Bettie Tipton Lindsey, we dedicated one year of those remaining until our sesquicentennial to each of our founders. 2017 is the year of Alice Allen Brant. Those who knew Alice described her as determined and intellectually curious. Born into a farming family that believed strongly in education, Alice graduated from Waveland Academy, a college preparatory program, and was one of the first five women admitted to Indiana Asbury College (later DePauw University). After graduation from Asbury, she was a high school teacher and principal; in a Theta history published in 1930, Alice's brother-in-law described her educational philosophy as "innovative." Travel appealed to her adventurous nature, and Alice visited both the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 and the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

Alice Allen Brant and her founding sisters paved the way for women to be integrated into university culture and have the support system they needed in a frequently inhospitable environment. Look for more information in future issues of the Theta magazine as we celebrate Alice Allen Brant and all Thetas who are dedicated to learning, growing, and being a part of something larger than themselves. ♦



Want more?  
[heritage.kappaalphatheta.org/](https://heritage.kappaalphatheta.org/)





Back row: Alex Johnston, McKenzie Jerman, Rachel Radmacher, Emma Silvers-Harnly, Paige Toxey, Aria Zommers, Emily Callen, Tamara Hansen, Kassie Dobbs; front row: Alyssa Franco, Meghan Finke, Sydney Rose, Ansley Howze, Rebecca McAlexander, Presley Townsend, Jocelyn Nicotero, Annie Hornung.

## THETA'S AMBASSADORS

In 2016-17, 17 women represent Theta as educational leadership consultants (ELCs). ELCs serve as tireless Theta ambassadors, enhancing college members' understanding of Theta and serving as role models. Traveling ELCs make 15 to 20 visits each term, providing support for the improvement of college chapter operations. Based ELCs provide continuous support to the successful establishment of one new chapter.

Chosen for their academic achievements and chapter/campus leadership, these recent graduates completed an intensive training program at Grand Convention and in Indianapolis, gaining a thorough knowledge of Theta's programs, procedures, and laws.

The ELC program is supported financially by Theta Foundation.



### EMILY CALLEN, BK/DRAKE

Based at Theta Mu/Mines

**HOMETOWN** Springfield, Missouri

**MAJOR** elementary and special education

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief education officer, ritualist, nominating committee, bylaws committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** President's List, Top Junior award, Order of Omega president, Mortarboard

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Teaching elementary special education.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Membership in Theta has provided countless opportunities to learn about myself and others, to grow as an individual, and to appreciate the importance of a community of supportive women.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Leading Women are courageous. They are not intimidated by challenges. They understand and appreciate the value of difference and seek to understand those around them. They stand firmly in their values regardless of the opinions of others and persevere through difficulties with patience and positivity.

### KASSIE DOBBS, ΓΥ/MIAMI

Based at Gamma Sigma/San Diego State

**HOMETOWN** Carmel, Indiana

**MAJOR** early childhood education

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** human resources director, Panhellenic recruitment counselor, awards director, membership development committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Golden Key, Kappa Delta Pi, cum laude, Dean's List, National Honor Society

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Returning to Indianapolis and teaching elementary grades.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta means being a part of a community of women who share a similar set of core values. This inspires me to stay true to those values every day.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** "Leading Women" means having the confidence to inspire and encourage positive change. The leading women in my life did this for me, and I hope to do this for others.

### MEGHAN FINKE, ΓΔ/OHIO WESLEYAN

Based at Epsilon Theta/Stetson

**HOMETOWN** Cincinnati, Ohio

**MAJOR** psychology

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief recruiting officer, chief executive officer

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Gamma Sigma Alpha, Psi Chi, Phi Eta Sigma, Branch Rickey Scholar, Dean's List

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Graduate school, studying higher education/student affairs.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Thetas have been my cheerleaders, inspirations, and closest friends. When I look back at my college years, I see that Theta guided me through many defining life events.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** It means being a woman who is uncompromising in her ideals.

### ALYSSA FRANCO, ΓΙ/KENTUCKY

Based at Theta Nu/Georgia Tech

**HOMETOWN** Las Vegas

**MAJOR** political science

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief executive officer, chief operating officer, awards director, membership development committee, bylaws committee, nominating committee, Panhellenic extension committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Dean's List

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Pursuing my passion for the law and working to protect the rights of children.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta has given me something to be a part of that is bigger than myself. Theta is love, friendship, com-



passion, confidence and empowerment.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Theta encourages its members to be nobler women. We encourage each woman to pursue personal excellence in all she does.

**TAMARA HANSEN, ΓΧ/FRESNO STATE**

Traveling full time

**HOMETOWN** Santa Maria, California

**MAJOR** speech and language pathology

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief executive officer, event director, membership development committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Lehla Slocum Beatty Memorial Scholarship, Fresno Panhellenic Alumnae Scholarship

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Graduate school, studying speech and language pathology.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta has been a guiding light in my life for the past four years, challenging me to become a better version of myself each and every day.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Being a Leading Woman is about serving and empowering others daily and working relentlessly to better the world around us.

**ANNIE HORNING, ΗΣ/CHAPMAN**

Traveling full time

**HOMETOWN** Woodinville, Washington

**MAJOR** communication studies

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief education officer, ritualist, alumnae engagement director

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Chancellor's Scholarship, Lambda Pi Eta, Order of Omega, Sigma Alpha Pi

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A career in higher education and student affairs.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta means leading with grace and learning with enthusiasm. It means working hard, staying humble, and being kind.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** It is more than just a brand, a phrase, or a tag line. Being a "leading woman" means aspiring higher, living out our values, and working hard each day to be our very best.

**ANSLEY HOWZE, ΗΦ/BELMONT**

Based at Epsilon Theta/Stetson

**HOMETOWN** Savannah, Georgia

**MAJOR** marketing & music business

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief executive officer, chief recruiting officer, membership development committee

**CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Order of Omega, Dean's List

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A career in the music industry.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** When I was anxious about staying at a school so far away from home, Theta became my family at Belmont. When I knew I wanted an avenue to

grow and pursue responsibility, Theta entrusted me with leadership. When the opportunity to become an educational leadership consultant became a reality, I knew it was time to give back to something that has meant so much.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Theta leading women are kind, smart, intelligent, and destined to make a difference. I hadn't fully understood what it meant to be a leading woman until I was surrounded by these women who challenged me to better myself every day and enabled me to lead and have a voice on my campus.

**MCKENZIE JERMAN, ΒΟ/IOWA**

Traveling full time

**HOMETOWN** Tucson, Arizona

**MAJOR** mathematics

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** nominating committee, membership development committee, bylaws committee; Greek Week executive director, Panhellenic assistant VP for recruitment, Panhellenic VP for recruitment

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Dean's List, Greek Woman of the Year, University Honors College, Council Officer of the Year

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Applying to graduate school.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta connects me to thousands of strong, accomplished, and intelligent women across the world. Because of Theta, I am constantly pushing myself to be better and aiming to uphold the values that each member holds to her heart.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Thetas are making positive change in their communities and are constantly looking to better both themselves and the places in which they live. Thetas are not scared to go against the status quo for the betterment of others.

**ALEX JOHNSTON, ΘΘ/NC STATE**

Based at Theta Mu/Mines

**HOMETOWN** Statesville, North Carolina

**MAJOR** human biology, history

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** charter member, archivist & historian, chief education officer, nominating committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Thomas Jefferson Scholars dual degree program

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Medical school to pursue my dream of being an obstetrician.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Joining the charter class of Kappa Alpha Theta at NC State was the best choice I ever made! It has transformed my life in wonderful ways, and I am so thankful to continue this journey as an ELC.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Leading Women is a challenge to rise to the occasion, to be the most authentic version of myself, and to utilize my skills to further promote the values that have guided me.

**REBECCA MCALEXANDER, ΓΜ/MARYLAND**

Traveling full time

**HOMETOWN** Memphis, Tennessee

**MAJOR** Jewish studies

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief operating officer, new member director, nominating committee, membership development committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** President's Scholarship; Dean's List

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A career in student affairs/higher education or the music business.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta is a critical part of my identity, providing me with opportunities that have defined my life as a young adult. I am grateful for the relationships I have made, the skills I have gained, and the experiences I have been a part.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Leading women are at the forefront of their fields, spearheading dialogues, creating positive change, and always remaining dedicated to their values. Leading women are unapologetically themselves.

**JOCELYN NICOTERO, Λ/VERMONT**

Based at Theta Xi/UC Santa Cruz

**HOMETOWN** Pittsburgh

**MAJOR** dietetics, nutrition and food science

**THETA OFFICES, STANDING COMMITTEES** chief recruiting officer, service & philanthropy director

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Mary Jean Simpson Award nominee, Edith T. & Charles Dana Bennett Scholarship, Holzer Memorial Scholarship, Richard D. Alpin Scholarship, Order of Omega, Rho Lambda president, University Presidential Scholarship

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Graduate school, becoming a registered dietitian, and a career in food policy or corporate nutrition.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** I have seen myself grow in ways I didn't know were possible. I truly believe that I am a stronger woman than I was four years ago, solely due to this amazing organization.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Leading women are an inspiration to others, they are dependable and always there to lend a helping hand. A leading woman is confident in her career goals and shows strength when it comes to personal choices.

**RACHEL RADMACHER, ΗΩ/SAINT LOUIS**

Based at Theta Xi/UC Santa Cruz

**HOMETOWN** Lone Jack, Missouri

**MAJOR** business administration (marketing concentration) with a communications minor

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief recruiting officer, archivist & historian, nominating committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Dean's List, cum laude, Business School Intern of the Year, Eta Omega Most Motivational 2015, Alpha Kappa Psi

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A career in



special events or marketing.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** The people I have met because of Theta have not only made me a better person but have made my life better because they are in it. Theta means always having a constant network of amazing women who support and encourage me.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** The phrase "Leading Women" makes me feel empowered. It reminds me never to shy away from taking a stand and to always have confidence in myself.

**SYDNEY ROSE, HP/JAMES MADISON**

Based at Gamma Sigma/San Diego State

**HOMETOWN** Middleburg, Virginia

**MAJOR** interdisciplinary liberal studies with an elementary education minor

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief executive officer, member development committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS**

Outstanding Executive Member in a Sorority

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A master's degree in elementary education.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta means being a part of something bigger than myself. I have become a stronger and better leader, sister, and person because of this amazing organization. I am beyond grateful for the opportunities and friends Theta has connected me to.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** A leading woman strives to be the very best she can be in all aspects of her life. She is not afraid to stand up for what is right even if she is standing alone.

**EMMA SILVERS-HARNLY, AE/OREGON**

Based at Theta Lambda/Rochester

**HOMETOWN** Eugene, Oregon

**MAJOR** public relations

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** chief marketing officer, chief executive officer

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Dean's Award for Service, the inaugural national It's On Us Campaign Student Advocacy Board.

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A master's degree in student personnel in higher education

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta provided me with leadership opportunities I never thought I could accomplish, and sisters, mentors, and friends to support me along the way. Theta is a sisterhood that lets women better themselves, and in turn, better each other.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Being leading women means acting for the greater good of our communities. We must set the tone for responsible, compassionate and ethical leadership. "Leading women" is the motivation, and inspiration, to be better.

**PRESLEY TOWNSEND, ΓΩ/AUBURN**

Based at Theta Nu/Georgia Tech

**HOMETOWN** Lester, Alabama

**MAJOR** agricultural communications

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** new member director, membership development committee

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** cum laude

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A job in the South working in the communications field.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Being a part of something so much bigger than myself or my college experience. Theta has a rich history of strong and successful women, and it is important to me to carry on that legacy.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** It means remembering to personify all of the values that Theta has instilled in me. It means always putting my best foot forward and working hard to accomplish any goal I set, no matter how difficult or out of reach it may seem.

**PAIGE TOXEY, ΓΩ/AUBURN**

Traveling full time

**HOMETOWN** Tuscaloosa, Alabama

**MAJOR** journalism

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** human resource director

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS**

University Panhellenic's Lori Hart Ebert Award for Most Outstanding New Member

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** A career in public relations or print journalism.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Theta is a family. I hope to be able to give grace, support, and unconditional love back to this organization that has given me so much.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Being a leading woman is standing up for your values. It's having a servant's heart. It's being a woman that little girls can look up to for being unashamedly smart, funny, and emotional. Leading women are world-changers, which is why I am proud to be a Theta woman.

**ARIA ZOMMERS, BE/UCLA**

**HOMETOWN** Foothill Ranch, California

**MAJOR** global studies, communication studies

**THETA OFFICES & STANDING COMMITTEES** recruitment director, chief executive officer

**CAMPUS/COMMUNITY AWARDS & HONORS** Beta Xi Kite Award

**WHAT ARE YOUR POST-ELC PLANS?** Teaching at the elementary level. My goal is school administration and perhaps even education policy.

**WHAT DOES THETA MEAN TO YOU?** Not only are Theta women exemplary students, humanitarians, and athletes, they are great human beings. The friends made through this organization are friends for life, and my best memories have been made in the company of my sisters.

**WHAT DOES "LEADING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?** Most important in the definition of a "Leading Woman" is the aspect of inspiration. As an ELC, I could not be more grateful for the opportunity to guide such a revolutionary group of women. We are constantly motivating each other to see more, do more, and be more than we are. ♦



Can you see yourself traveling North America, living in a new city, leading educational workshops, opening new chapters, and serving as a Fraternity representative? Then you should consider applying to be an ELC!

ELCs come from all academic fields. Whether you major in pre-med, pre-law, marketing, education or business, the ELC program will provide you with skills for your next step.

Applications for 2017-2018 are due December 1, 2016

For more details on the application process, visit [kappaalphatheta.org](http://kappaalphatheta.org) and type **ELC Program** into the Search field. Questions about the ELC program may be directed to Christa Samaha, assistant director of chapter services, [csamaha@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:csamaha@kappaalphatheta.org)





In June, nearly 900 Kappa Alpha Theta leading women gathered at the stunning Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix. This photo gallery showcases the celebration of sisterhood, achievement, widest influence for good, and Theta tradition that was Grand Convention 2016.



# A Theta Celebration



## INTELLECTUAL AMBITION

Speakers like Brooke Johnson, Tau/Northwestern, retired Food Network president (below center); pre-Convention seminars; and concurrent sessions for alumnae and college officers and advisors offered inspiration and motivation.





## WIDEST INFLUENCE FOR GOOD

Theta Foundation's Pansy Patch tangibly demonstrated Theta love and thoughtfulness by raising \$200,000 for Foundation grants, scholarships, and programs, as well as for CASA.

Executives from National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) helped celebrate the announcement of an unprecedented Theta Foundation initiative to raise \$1 million for CASA over the next three years. The symbolic check held by Meghan Grenda, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi CEO; Laura Ware Doerre, Fraternity president; Bill Collins, CASA board chairman; Tara Perry, CASA chief executive officer; Mary Ellen Kutsenda Fitzsimonds, Theta Foundation president; and Lauren Caravaggio, Beta Xi/UCLA CEO represents an initial gift of \$200,000.

Convention marked the successful (and emotional!) conclusion of *Theta Foundation's Give to Lead, Give to Learn* campaign, which raised \$5.2 million for the Educational Leadership Consultant (ELC) program and need-based scholarships.



## SISTERHOOD

Whether meeting for the first time ever or for the first time in many months—or years!—Theta sisters hugged, cried, laughed ... and squealed. Fraternity presidents spanning service years from 1980 to the present posed for a formal portrait (directly left), as did former and current ELCs (lower left). Others celebrated their Theta connection by simply smiling for the camera.



## THETA TRADITION

The procession in which Thetas march to the closing Convention banquet in chapter order—from Alpha to the newest chapter—is a treasured Convention experience and memory.

EVENT PHOTOS BY GREEKYEARBOOK





Grand Convention's Friday night event—titled Theta Celebration, an Evening of Recognition—featured an awards ceremony honoring the accomplishments of both alumnae and college chapters. Toastmistress Lindsay Sell, Beta Gamma/Colorado State, put the event into historical perspective. “A dinner and awards ceremony recognizing the accomplishments of our alumnae and college chapters has been a Grand Convention tradition for many, many years,” she said. “Tonight, we continue that tradition, and we also recognize the ways in which our chapters and our international Fraternity work in concert with our Fraternity Housing Corporation and Theta Foundation to fulfill our mission of nurturing each member throughout her college and alumna experience and offering her a lifelong opportunity for social, intellectual, and moral growth as she meets the higher and broader demands of mature life.”

## ALUMNAE CHAPTER AWARDS

### PANSY

Albuquerque  
Annapolis/Severna Park  
Baltimore  
Boston Metro  
Burlington  
Calgary  
Cincinnati  
Coastal Carolina  
Fargo  
Fort Bend  
Hill Country  
Katy/West Houston  
Kay County  
New York City  
NJ North Central  
Oklahoma City  
Palo Alto  
Pasadena  
Rio Grande Valley  
San Francisco  
Stillwater  
Topeka  
Upstate SC  
Vero Beach  
Western North Dakota  
Westfield  
Winston-Salem

### BLACK & GOLD

Bloomington  
Bryan/College Station  
Charlotte Area  
Chattanooga Area  
Colorado Springs  
Delaware Area  
Emerald Coast  
Flatirons  
Fort Collins  
Fort Worth  
Fox Cities  
Greater Fort Myers  
Grosse Pointe  
Indianapolis  
Jackson  
Lafayette  
Lubbock  
Mid-Cities  
Midland  
Mobile Bay  
Nature Coast  
NC Triangle  
Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Northern VA  
Palos Verdes Peninsula  
Peoria  
Pittsburgh  
Plano  
Rochester  
Rockford  
San Mateo  
Sarasota  
Sioux Falls  
SLO/Central Coast  
South Central Pennsylvania  
Southern Denton County  
State College  
Tallahassee  
Western North Carolina

### TWIN STARS

Central Florida  
Columbia Area SC  
Dayton  
Fresno  
Grand Rapids  
Greater Kansas City  
Greensboro  
Hartford  
Houston NW  
Inland Southern California  
Iowa City/Cedar Rapids  
Las Vegas  
Los Angeles  
Louisville

Alumnae  
&  
College Chapter  
Recognition



Milwaukee  
Minneapolis  
NW Arkansas  
Olympia  
Palm Beach County  
Philadelphia  
Portland  
Reno  
Richmond, VA  
San Antonio  
South Orange County  
St. Louis  
St. Paul  
St. Petersburg  
Toronto  
Tucson  
Tulsa  
Vancouver, BC  
Westchester, NY  
Wichita

#### **GOLDEN KITE**

Arlington Area  
Atlanta  
Auburn  
Austin  
Birmingham, MI  
Boise

Chicago North Shore  
Chicago NW Suburban  
Cleveland  
Columbus, OH  
Dallas  
Denver  
Des Moines  
Fairfield County  
Houston  
Jacksonville  
Memphis  
Miami  
Naples/Marco Island/Bonita Springs  
Nashville  
New Orleans  
Omaha  
Orange County  
Phoenix  
Providence  
San Diego  
Seattle  
Southeastern Virginia  
Spokane  
Tampa  
The Woodlands Area  
Waco  
Washington DC/Suburban MD

#### **TOP IN GIVING TO NATIONAL CASA**

Nashville (\$7,700)  
Seattle (\$1,085)

#### **GIVE TO LEAD, GIVE TO LEARN THETA FOUNDATION CAMPAIGN GIVING**

Nashville  
Dallas  
Seattle

#### **TOP IN OVERALL THETA FOUNDATION GIVING**

Nashville (\$63,250)  
Spokane (\$14,931)  
Westchester (\$7,122)  
San Antonio (\$4,954)

#### **FOUNDERS AWARD FINALISTS**

Auburn  
Denver  
Des Moines  
Naples/Marco Island/Bonita Springs  
Nashville

#### **FOUNDERS AWARD WINNER**

Nashville

*(continued on page 20)*



#### **ACHIEVEMENT**

College and alumnae chapters, including Eta Omega/Saint Louis (above left), were recognized for excellence at the Theta Celebration: An Evening of Recognition dinner.

Thirty-four alumnae chapters, including Vancouver, BC; Toronto; San Antonio; Westchester, NY; and Tulsa (above center), earned Twin Stars awards.

The Eta Sigma Chapter at Chapman was recognized for excellence in all areas with Theta's highest college chapter honor: the Founders Award (above right).



**KAPPA ALPHA THETA**   
LEADING WOMEN





## COLLEGE CHAPTER AWARDS

### EXCELLENCE IN ADMINISTRATION

HΦ/Belmont

Runner-up: HP/James Madison

### EXCELLENCE IN ADVISORY BOARD

ΓM/Maryland

Runner-up: ZM/MIT

### EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE, LESS THAN \$150,000

HΞ/Quinnipiac

Runner-up: EΠ/Bucknell

### EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE, \$150,001 - \$300,000

ΔΦ/Clemson

Runner-up: HΩ/Saint Louis

### EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE, \$300,001 - \$600,000

EE/Baylor

Runner-up: AΦ/Tulane

### EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE, \$600,001 AND ABOVE

ΓΔ/Georgia

Runner-up: BI/Colorado

### EXCELLENCE IN MARKETING

BI/Colorado

Runner-up: AΨ/Lawrence

### EXCELLENCE IN MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

ΓT/Tulsa

Runner-up: ΔH/Kansas State

### EXCELLENCE IN PANHELLENIC

ΓT/Tulsa

Runner-up: ZΣ/Ohio Northern

### EXCELLENCE IN RECRUITMENT

HΦ/Belmont

Runner-up: BI/Colorado

### EXCELLENCE IN RISK PREVENTION

HΦ/Belmont

Runner-up: AH/Vanderbilt

### EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE & PHILANTHROPY

BK/Drake

Runner-Up: AP/South Dakota

### LISSA L. BRADFORD AWARD FOR PANHELLENIC EXCELLENCE

University of Illinois Panhellenic Council

### HIGHEST SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

AΣ/Washington State

Runner-Up: BO/Iowa

### SOARING KITE AWARD

ΓN/North Dakota State

### TOP IN GIVING TO NATIONAL CASA

EZ/Mississippi (\$10,468)

Runner-Up: BE/UCLA (\$8,337)

### GIVE TO LEAD, GIVE TO LEARN THETA FOUNDATION CAMPAIGN GIVING

O/USC

AΓ/Ohio State

AΘ/Texas

### TOP IN OVERALL THETA FOUNDATION GIVING

O/USC (\$205,229)

EZ/Mississippi (\$17,867)

HT/Tampa (\$9,496)

BZ/Oklahoma State (\$4,942)

### BRONZE KITE

Γ/Butler

K/Kansas

N/Hanover

AB/Swarthmore

AM/Missouri

AΞ/Oregon

AP/South Dakota

AΣ/Washington State

AΦ/Tulane

BE/UCLA

BP/Duke

BΣ/SMU

BT/Denison

ΓE/Western

ΓZ/Connecticut

ΓI/Kentucky

ΓΠ/Iowa State

ΓP/UC Santa Barbara

ΓY/Miami

ΓΨ/TCU

ΓΩ/Auburn

ΔE/Arizona State

ΔH/Kansas State

ΔΘ/Florida

ΔO/Alabama

ΔΩ/Texas A&M

ZΘ/Cal Poly

ZO/Wake Forest

ZP/UC San Diego

ZX/Johns Hopkins

HM/Occidental

HT/Tampa

HΨ/Tufts

HΩ/Saint Louis

ΘI/-

### SILVER KITE

Δ/Illinois

P/Nebraska

T/Northwestern

AH/Vanderbilt

AO/Oklahoma

AΠ/North Dakota

BΔ/Arizona

BE/Oregon State

BZ/Oklahoma State

BY/British Columbia

ΓX/Fresno State

ΔZ/Emory

EE/Baylor

EH/Centre

EA/Dickinson

HΞ/Quinnipiac

EΠ/Bucknell

EΨ/Richmond

ZH/Wofford

ZN/UC Davis

ZY/UT Dallas

HI/San Diego

### GOLDEN KITE

A/DePauw

O/USC

BI/Colorado

BK/Drake

ΓΔ/Georgia

ΓM/Maryland

ΓT/Tulsa

ΓΦ/Texas Tech

ΔY/Eastern Kentucky

EI/Westminster

ZΞ/-

HΠ/Case Western

HP/James Madison

HΣ/Chapman

HΦ/Belmont

### FOUNDERS AWARD FINALISTS

ΓΔ/Georgia

ΓT/Tulsa

EI/Westminster

HΠ/Case Western

HP/James Madison

HΣ/Chapman

HΦ/Belmont

### FOUNDERS AWARD WINNER

HΣ/Chapman





2016-2018 Grand Council.  
Back row: Mandy Burgett Wushinske, Kathy Newman Schweer, Erica D'Angelo Ochs, Heather Breuninger Granato; front row: Jane Shepherd Dick, Laura Ware Doerre; Mary Ellen Kutsenda Fitzsimonds, Kimi Morris Martin.

## GRAND COUNCIL 2016-2018

**Laura Ware Doerre, Delta Xi/North Carolina**, begins her second term as Fraternity president. Doerre has served as a Fraternity vice president, Theta Foundation trustee, coordinator of the directors of risk management, a director of risk management, and a member of the nominating committee task force, as well as held numerous offices in the Houston Northwest Alumnae Chapter.

An attorney, Doerre is executive vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance officer of a global building-supplies manufacturer.

**Jane Shepherd Dick, Epsilon Mu/Princeton**, begins her second consecutive term on Grand Council; she also held the previous Council office of vice president alumnae from 2000 to 2002. She has served Theta as a Foundation trustee, nominating committee officer, alumnae district president/officer, member of the heritage committee, and permanent alumnae secretary for Epsilon Mu. She is active in the Palo Alto Alumnae Chapter and has served as a college chapter advisor and a facility corporation board member.

Dick is a hobbyist chocolatier and confectioner, formerly directing and teaching in a cooking school. She now works as secretary at a large alternative public elementary school and has served in several leadership positions on school PTAs, site councils, and vision committees.

**Heather Breuninger Granato, Epsilon Psi/Richmond**, is new to Grand Council this biennium. Her previous Theta service includes the offices of alumnae committee chairman, alumnae district director, and alumnae district president/officer. She has also held advisory board and alumnae chapter officer positions and is a member of the Phoenix Alumnae Chapter.

Professionally, Granato is vice president of content at a multinational publishing and events company.

Beginning her fourth term as a Fraternity vice president, **Kimi Morris Martin, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma**, has served previously as a membership district director, service and philanthropy committee member, advisory board chairman, and alumnae chapter president/officer. She is a member of the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter and is an ex officio member of the Theta Foundation board of trustees.

Martin is in her thirty-eighth year as an international flight attendant.

She currently services on the board of the Cherokee County (Georgia) CASA and Children's Haven organization.

**Erica D'Angelo Ochs, Eta Nu/Lake Forest**, begins her first term as a Fraternity vice president, and her previous Theta offices include chairman of the chapter compliance committee, budget district director, and administrative district director. She has also served in several college chapter advisor positions and is a member of the Birmingham (Mich.) Alumnae Chapter.

Ochs is director of business development for a global manufacturer of automotive components.

**Kathy Newman Schweer, Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma**, begins her second term as a Fraternity vice president. She previously served Theta as director of marketing for extension, a college regional director, college district president, recruitment consultant, college chapter advisor, and advisory board chairman. She is also currently a vice president of the Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC).

A teacher and nonprofit administrator, Schweer is a member of the Boston Metro Alumnae Chapter and serves in a leadership role for women's ministries at her church.

**Mandy Burgett Wushinske, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern**, begins her fourth term as a Fraternity vice president. She is assistant principal at an elementary school and has taught elementary and middle school.

Wushinske's Theta offices include Theta Foundation trustee, college district president, membership district director, college chapter advisor, and advisory board chairman. In her community, she is an active volunteer at her church and her children's school.

Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation President **Mary Ellen Kutsenda Fitzsimonds, Beta Kappa/Drake**, has served Theta as Fraternity vice president; Foundation trustee; *Give to Lead, Give to Learn* cabinet member; Fraternity Housing Trust officer; alternate NPC delegate; alumnae district president/officer; and director of alumnae education. She has held numerous offices in the Chicago North Shore Alumnae Chapter.

A licensed pharmacist, Fitzsimonds serves on the Council of 100 of the Girl Scout Council of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. ♦



# 5,000 & COUNTING

THIS MONTH, OUR LIFE LOYAL PROGRAM WILL ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE: 5,000 MEMBERS!

## A BRIEF HISTORY

Life Loyal was announced to attendees at Grand Convention 2010 and to the entire membership in the Summer 2010 issue of our magazine. In her introductory article, past Fraternity president Karen Albrecht Ledbetter, Gamma Tau/Tulsa, wrote, "... it has been my privilege to advance Theta's mission so that our Fraternity will continue to foster dear friendships and nurture hopes and dreams for many years to come."

She continued by explaining that our college members not only excel in academics, leadership, and extracurricular activities on their campuses, but they also have responsibilities at jobs and internships. At the same time, dues from collegians account for a significant portion of Theta's general treasury income. "Grand Council carefully researched and thoughtfully considered the most equitable, sustainable plan to allow college dues to support programs that directly affect collegians," Ledbetter wrote. "By funding *The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*—a publication that is read mainly by alumnae—Kappa Alpha Theta Life Loyal frees college dues and fees to support education-, leadership-, and service-related opportunities."

Theta Life Loyal was modeled after successful programs offered by other large national sororities and fraternities. The key component is a one-time fee that exempts members from paying alumnae dues to the Fraternity (not alumnae chapter dues) and ensures that they will receive four quarterly issues of the Theta magazine each year. (All Thetas receive one issue—the Spring issue—each year.)

## A BRIEF Q&A

### WHAT DOES IT COST?

The one-time cost of membership in Kappa Alpha Theta Life Loyal is \$299 or, for 50-year plus members, \$189.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Life Loyal members have the satisfaction of knowing they support Theta financially. They receive a lifetime subscription to the Theta magazine and are exempt from Fraternity dues for life.\* Life Loyal members also receive a welcome packet with a lapel pin, personalized membership card, and limited-edition gift.

\*Not including alumnae chapter dues.

### WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

For most members, a Life Loyal membership pays for itself within 10 years. For a 50-year Theta, it pays for itself within six years. Leadership and educational opportunities, such as the StrengthsQuest program, are provided to Life Loyal members at no charge.

*"In giving my daughter the gift of Life Loyal membership, I helped her stay connected to the sisterhood that has meant so much to her."*

— Cathie Cardelucci  
BE/UCLA

*Life Loyal*



## BECOME A LIFE LOYAL THETA! *These women enrolled between May 1 and July 31, 2016.*

### A/DEPAUW

Stephanie Heckler Mullen

### B/INDIANA

Gloria McVay Cochran  
Ann Luzadder Rysenga

### Λ/VERMONT

Marielle K. Ludwig

### ΓΔ/OHIO WESLEYAN

Mary Halliday Pike

### M/ALLEGHENY

Sarah Shindler

### O/USC

Suzanne Hodson Desforges  
Marnie Hartley Gruen

### T/NORTHWESTERN

Carolyn McPadden Galliani

### Y/MINNESOTA

Colleen Rosenberger Rouzer

### Φ/PACIFIC

Carol Hornbecker Wolfe

### Ψ/WISCONSIN

Susan Murphy Endres  
Cheryl Naasko-Pounds  
Courtney R. Scharff

### ΑΓ/OHIO STATE

Julia Hernandez  
Susan Riley Weed Scherer

### AH/VANDERBILT

Margaret McCullough Buescher  
Colleen M. Johnson

### ΑΘ/TEXAS

Sarah Tillman

### ΑΛ/WASHINGTON

Annmarie Ault Farris

### ΑΜ/MISSOURI

Stephanie Rados Dreisilker

### ΑΟ/OKLAHOMA

Karen Johannes Bowman  
Lori Minnix Kemmet

### ΑΥ/WASHBURN

Linda Henry Elrod

### ΑΦ/TULANE

Meaghan Elizabeth Hartney

### ΑΧ/PURDUE

Megan Elizabeth Ricks

### ΑΨ/LAWRENCE

Savannah Vogel

### ΒΓ/COLORADO STATE

Lindsay Feuerborn Benhammou

### ΒΔ/ARIZONA

Christine Economopoulos Babey  
Morgen E. Daniels

### BZ/OKLAHOMA STATE

Emily Elizabeth Hill  
Julie Kimbrough Smith  
Jessica R. Ward

### BΘ/IDAHO

Doris Paasch Miller  
Hayden A. Sutton

### BK/DRAKE

Ann O'Neal Mallard

### ΒΛ/WILLIAM & MARY

Patricia Davis Graves

### BN/FLORIDA STATE

Susan Calobrisi Greene

### ΒΞ/UCLA

Katie Marie Heitman  
Kelsey Klein  
Megha Savla  
Adriana Zuabi

### BP/DUKE

Breanna E. Kendall  
Marianne Shivanandan Rhatigan

### ΒΣ/SMU

Nancy Linn Goodman

### BΦ/PENN STATE

Eleanor Crowers Baker

### BΩ/COLORADO COLLEGE

Jaden H. Combs  
Aleda Yasmin Deuble

### ΓΔ/GEORGIA

Martha Stanton Van Der Mallie

### ΓΣ/SAN DIEGO STATE

Heidi Bonn Border

### ΓΦ/TEXAS TECH

Tara Clarabut Knight  
Laura Johnson Smith

### ΓΨ/TCU

Susan Swain Hotard  
Kelly Lynn Ryan

### ΔΕ/ARIZONA STATE

Jillian L. Forster

### ΔΗ/KANSAS STATE

Cindy Cummings Hawkins  
Elaine M. Lamm  
Sara L. Manco  
Joy Scammahorn-Orr  
Patricia Fellows Parker  
Alexa M. Schreck

### ΔΙ/PUGET SOUND

Claire Frances Elizabeth Fransen

### ΔΚ/LSU

Mattie L. Fairchild  
Mary Pat Haines  
Susan Sutton McFarland  
Anne Elizabeth Wasson

### ΔΟ/ALABAMA

Priscilla Pierson Hackstadt

### ΔΣ/BALL STATE

Nora Pcolinski Bammann

### ΔΦ/CLEMSON

Sherri Marie Carr  
Kaitlin Taylor Cody  
Julie Sparks Coffey  
Pamela L. Lorentz

### ΔΧ/VIRGINIA

Patricia M. Beron  
Ashley Lyons Gunn

### ΔΩ/TEXAS A&M

Abigail Grace Roberts  
Madeline E. Street

### ΕΕ/BAYLOR

Michelle Taylor Sims

### ΕΖ/MISSISSIPPI

Jenifer Lemmen Schrader

### ΕΗ/CENTRE

Hallee Hunt

### ΕΠ/BUCKNELL

Abigail Garrett

### ΖΗ/WOFFORD

Morgan Paige Graham

### ΖΘ/CAL POLY

Cathy Cooley  
Erica E. Solum

### ΖΡ/UC SAN DIEGO

Brittany A. Darnley

### ΖΥ/UT DALLAS

Jennifer Spies Spurlin

### ΖΩ/LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

Alexandra Louise Berglund

### ΗΝ/LAKE FOREST

Annalise Leandra Parks

### ΗΕ/QUINNIPIAC

Lauren M. Beardsley  
Meghan Healy

### ΗΠ/CASE WESTERN

Emily S. Kugel

### ΗΣ/CHAPMAN

Shelley DeHekker

### ΗΤ/TAMPA

Lia M. Quinones

### ΗΦ/BELMONT

Jeanette Morelan

### ΗΩ/ST. LOUIS

Anna Vettiankal ◇

IT'S EASY TO JOIN  
KAPPA ALPHA THETA  
LIFE LOYAL  
OR ENROLL A FRIEND  
OR RELATIVE!

#### ONLINE

Simply go to  
[www.thetalifeloyal.org](http://www.thetalifeloyal.org)  
to join and pay through our  
secure website.

#### PHONE

Call Fraternity headquarters,  
**800-526-1870**,  
to provide your contact  
and payment information  
over the phone.

#### MAIL

Print the enrollment form  
available at  
[www.thetalifeloyal.org](http://www.thetalifeloyal.org)  
and mail the completed form  
with your check or credit card  
information to:

Kappa Alpha Theta  
attn: Kristi Tucker  
8740 Founders Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268



# FEATS OF ENDURANCE

ULTRA-RUNNING COMPETITIONS OF 100 MILES OR MORE PUSH ATHLETE **DESIREE MAREK** TO HER PHYSICAL AND MENTAL LIMITS, LEAVING HER A STRONGER PERSON EVERY TIME.

BY JAN SCHMITZ MATHEW, Δ/ILLINOIS

**W**hether poised at the start line of a half-marathon or pumped to tackle an excruciating 135-mile ultra-running competition through Death Valley, California, endurance runner Desiree Marek strides with one certainty: when she crosses the finish line, she will be a different person.

The metamorphosis, she says, is what fuels her passion for the sport of ultra-running, which is defined as any distance greater than the marathon distance of 26.2 miles.

"Every race has its issues, and every race changes me," says Marek, Alpha Nu/Montana. "I've run in 100-degree-plus temperatures and downpours. At some point in the race, I might feel completely broken.

"But nothing matters other than what gets me to the finish line, and I emerge a stronger person every time."

In July, Marek put endurance to the ultimate test by completing her first-ever invitation-only STYR Labs Badwater 135, described as "the world's toughest foot race." The course covered 135 miles, beginning at Badwater, Death Valley, which—at 280 feet below sea level—marks the lowest elevation in North America, and finishing at Whitney Portal, at 8,300 feet above sea level. From start to finish, Marek trekked through three mountain ranges for a total of 14,600 feet of cumulative vertical ascent and 6,100 feet of cumulative descent. Ninety-seven runners started, and 87 completed the race. Marek finished 16<sup>th</sup> among the 25 female competitors, with a time of 42 hours and 57 minutes.

Her feat, backed by three years of training and résumé building, was threatened by an adductor/groin strain just five months pre-race—an injury Marek describes as

her most severe and debilitating to date.

"I've been injured too many times and have spent more time in physical therapy and the ER than I would like to admit. After two of my injuries, doctors told me I'd never run again.

"I've been frustrated, angry, and disappointed, but it has never occurred to me to quit. Running is what drives me."

## SERENDIPITOUS START

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Marek and her family moved to a 370-acre ranch in the small town of Turah, Montana, when she was seven years old. "It was always my dad's dream to live on a ranch in the middle of nowhere, and he felt the time had come," Marek recalls. Although her family did not farm crops or raise animals for sale or consumption, the ranch housed chickens, horses, dogs, cats, and a pig.

"Ranch living wasn't easy, and like most children in our area, I learned to drive a tractor at an early age so I could help maintain the lawn and fields," says Marek, who has three brothers and six sisters. "I spent weeks during the fall helping split and stack wood for winter. Springtime always meant cleaning the barn and the dirty job of cleaning the chicken house.

"My parents were big believers in everyone contributing to the family, and they instilled a strong work ethic. In many ways, I attribute my ability to withstand tough running conditions to my parents and their insistence that we do things we didn't necessarily want to do."

Marek attended high school in nearby Missoula, and



You can follow Desiree Marek's many miles on her blog:  
[www.runningbecause.com](http://www.runningbecause.com)



earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in literature from the University of Montana, also located in Missoula. When she went through recruitment, Marek felt guided by her older sister Timberley, who also had graduated from the University of Montana and was a member of the Alpha Nu Chapter.

"There was never really any question about pledging Theta," Marek recalls. "It was such a welcoming chapter and immediately felt like home to me.

"Theta gave me the opportunity to take leadership roles, which has turned out to be very important in every aspect of my life."

After graduating with her master's degree in 2006, Marek moved to Portland, Oregon, and joined the law firm of Lewis Bridgman Bisgaard & Smith as a litigation IT paralegal, specializing in digital forensics, electronic discovery, and trial technology and presentation.

And although she appreciated Oregon's mountainous beauty by snowboarding in the winter and occasional hikes, her typical fitness regimen was an "obligatory" 45 minutes at the gym several times a week. "I was healthy enough, but by no means was I an athlete, nor did I have any aspirations of being one," Marek recalls.

But in August 2009, a serendipitous call from her brother Jeff redirected her expectations. His annual physical had been worrisome: weight gain and a stressful job were threatening Jeff's health, and his doctor advised numerous medications to combat the toll.

"Jeff refused the doctor's recommendation," Marek says, referring to the medications. "He wanted to face his health issues head-on by starting to run, and he asked me to join him."

At the time, Marek had never run more than a mile or so, and only on a treadmill. She admits to being terrified by her brother's invitation to run an "easy" ten miles on a gravel road.

"I shuffled as my legs got tired, and I struggled up hills," she recalls. "I thought I was going to die. That night I had the unbelievable soreness that only comes with pushing yourself harder than you thought you could.

"In hindsight, I had no idea how to start running, and I wasn't smart. I'd never advise someone to jump right in and do ten miles. But six weeks later, I ran a half-marathon, and a few months afterwards, I completed my first 31-mile competition. I was hooked."

Running also was cathartic. At the time, Marek's marriage was ending; her dad had recently been diagnosed with cancer (Tim Marek died in 2012, at the age of 80); and she had lost her home in the housing market crash.

"Running was the one positive thing in my life," she says. "It filled a painful void and became my passion."

## LIVING THE ULTRA-LIFE

Distance running also became the force that now paces and defines her life, with days bookended by rigorous workouts. Marek typically wakes at 3 am and starts a 12- to 15-mile run by 3:30. She follows her morning run with physical therapy exercises and arrives at work by 9 am. She logs 5 to 6 miles on her lunch break and, after work, typically tackles a yoga class, altitude training, or strength training. To prepare for the intense heat of Death Valley, Marek tweaked her routine: jogging in place for up to five minutes in a 160-degree sauna and

wearing several layers of clothes for the first four to seven miles of her runs.

After just seven short years of running, Marek's résumé stood at six half-marathons, 14 marathons, 13 50-kilometer races (31 miles), two 40-milers, three 50-milers, three 100-kilometer races (62.1 miles), and seven 100-mile finishes. Of these, the 100-mile events tend to follow a pattern all their own.

"Events usually start around five or six in the morning, with people nervously pacing around the start line," she says. "It's dark when we start running, so I look forward to seeing the sunrise and also to seeing my crew, which is usually about 30 miles into the race.

"For the first few hours, excitement and adrenaline drive me. By the middle, at 50 or 60 miles in, it's tough, but I'm still fairly awake. I'm stuck with my own brain, though, and I start thinking about the next aid station—they're usually ten to fifteen miles apart. At mile 75 or 80, any pain I feel actually plateaus and I'm almost sleepwalking. When I'm that tired, it becomes pure will. But I don't sleep; I just keep going.

"I take a deep breath, and take another step. I know the pain will pass. I tell myself I'm stronger than I think."

This is a test few are willing to take. The sport of ultra-running is relatively new, and some regional events draw only about 100 competitors. Typically, the percentage of male competitors is much higher than female, particularly for 100-mile distances. Finish rates range from about 40 to 70 percent, depending on race and terrain conditions. Marek's average finish time for 100-mile races is just under 30 hours.

Disqualifications affect finish rates, too. A runner can be disqualified for not completing the designated course within the allotted time, or if his or her support group breaks any rules. Apart from disqualification, a runner can be pulled from a race against his or her will due to medical issues, or if he or she misses an interim checkpoint time cutoff.

Ultra-running often comes with a steep price tag. Registration fees average about \$250, plus lodging, transportation, and food expenses. Marek offsets travel and registration costs through sponsorships—some she's solicited; others have sought her. Major sponsors include Nuun, (hydration products), Pearl Izumi (sports apparel), and Evolution Healthcare and Fitness (training facilities, including high-altitude training, and multidisciplinary healthcare clinics). And even though Marek rotates pairs of shoes for trail and road, she replaces each every 350 miles.

"In a word, I'd describe ultra-running as 'crazy,'" she says, laughing. "Hikers will see me running up and down a steep mountain trail three times as they're walking and ask me why I'm running it again. Sometimes, all I can do is make jokes.

"It's a surreal experience to feel as if I can't breathe or take another step. But I keep going, which is synonymous with a lot of things in life. It's what you do when you see a parent die, or go through a divorce.

"You can give up and be a shell, or you can let the experience turn into something positive."

## BATTLING TO BADWATER...

Out of approximately 1,000 applicants from around the world, only 100 athletes are invited to compete in





the Badwater 135. The strenuous application process includes submitting finish times from qualifying races (specifically, three 100-mile races completed within one year of applying), volunteering at ultra-events or being a member of a fellow runner's support team, and several essay questions.

Marek's key résumé-builder was completion of the Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run, which she ran in June 2015. The world's oldest 100-mile trail race, Western States starts in Squaw Valley, California, and ends 100.2 miles later in Auburn, California. Participants are selected by lottery, and it took Marek four tries to get "lucky."

"Western States became something I had to do," she recalls. "It's iconic—the Olympics of ultra-events. My main reason for competing was to make my résumé stand out for Badwater. I was a mediocre runner with minimal experience, going against incredible athletes from around the world. I had to gain experience as quickly as possible."

Strategy and perseverance paid off. Marek received her Badwater 135 acceptance via email on February 9, 2016, and blogged about the milestone: "On Tuesday, I anxiously sat on the edge of my seat at work, waiting, until, finally, I received a message from AdventureCORPS that began with, 'We regret to inform you...' My stomach dropped and I was overcome with more disappointment than I anticipated. Then I read on: '... that you have been accepted to compete in the 2016 STYR Labs Badwater 135.' My hands started to shake. My stomach filled with butterflies."

Next came a particularly tough training regimen and an unwelcome complication: seven weeks of no training to recover from a severe groin injury. The slow comeback, combined with a shortened timeline with which to prepare, was frustrating and stressful. Six weeks prior to Badwater, Marek blogged: "When I reach the start line in Death Valley, I won't look back on my training and think it was ideal. I won't look back on my training and know that I did everything I had hoped and planned to do. I will, though, look back on my training and know that I did everything I could with the body and the time that I had, and that's all any of us can hope to say. Acceptance."

And on July 11, at the end of her formal training regimen and one week prior to Badwater, Marek concluded: "It took courage for me to apply for this race, and it will take humility to finish it. But regardless of how my race ends, I will know this much is true: I wanted Badwater more than it hurt, and I showed up every single day."

## AND BATTLING THROUGH . . .

When Marek arrived at the race-start on Monday, July 18, at 8 pm at Badwater Basin, Death Valley, the temperature was 110 degrees with gusty winds, and the sun was just beginning to set. Throughout the night, temps dropped only to about 90 degrees, and peaked at 115 degrees the next day.

Because Badwater is a self-supported race, there were no aid stations on the course. Marek's crew met her every two to five miles along the route in a van loaded with food (chips, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, instant mashed potatoes, fruit, oatmeal), water, ice, clothes, and medical supplies. Crew members occasionally would run alongside, spraying water to keep her cool.

Ironically, resting proved very difficult. Marek sat in the van for about 20 minutes at miles 72 and 86, but was unable to fall asleep. "Late on the second night, at about mile 105, I became so tired that I was hallucinating and listing on the road," she recalls. "I laid down in the road for about five minutes with my pacer keeping me safe. I slept for the entire five minutes, and then got back up and started running."

The closer Marek came to the finish line, the more intense her emotions became. "My lowest point was around mile 115. I was exhausted but running well, and then sun blisters started to form on my calf. The pain was excruciating at that point, and it was everything I could do to keep moving forward."

"Reaching Lone Pine at mile 122 was my high point. I felt horrible and my entire body hurt, but I ran into town at about a seven-minute mile pace, determined and aware that I was going to finish. I saw my training partner, who had already finished, cheering for me."

"At the finish line, I felt relieved, grateful, happy, and overwhelmed. Running Badwater was the hardest thing I have ever done and it changed me in a way I still can't articulate. It killed me over and over again, and then I was reborn."

## MILES TO GO . . .

Marek's 2016 competitive ultra season concluded in September, when she ran the Pine to Palm 100 Miler in Williams, Oregon. On her radar screen is the Arrowhead 135, which takes place in mid-winter in Northern Minnesota. It's a résumé-builder that also would battle her nemesis: running in frigid weather.

Looking further down the road, Marek plans to simply do more of what she's doing right now, for as long as it's physically possible. "I like the growth potential of ultra-running and, athletically, I want to keep pushing my limits. I'd like to run in places that I couldn't see any other way than on foot."

As she puts one foot in front of another, Marek continues to draw on the fighting spirit she saw in her father throughout his cancer battle. And she'd offer this advice to other women athletes, whether they're tackling mile number one or mile number 100.

"No matter how you start, it will be hard. Don't get frustrated—just enjoy the process, because it's all about how you got there."

"I'm not an exceptional person, and I'm not athletically inclined. I'm anemic and asthmatic, and I don't 'look' like a runner. Life isn't easy, and fitting in athleticism is difficult: I work 40-50 hours a week and have a lengthy commute. But if you want something, whatever that 'something' is, you find a way."

"The only question is whether you want it more than it hurts; whether you want it enough to find a way around or through the obstacles to make it fit into your life." ♦

*About the author:* As a CrossFit athlete and runner whose résumé peaks with 15K races, author **Jan Mathew** was awed by Desiree's mental and physical toughness.

*'There was never really any question about pledging Theta. It was such a welcoming house and immediately felt like home to me. . . . Theta gave me the opportunity to take leadership roles, which has turned out to be very important in every aspect of my life.'*





# KITES FLYING HIGH

## UC SANTA CRUZ

THIS AUTUMN, KAPPA ALPHA THETA REESTABLISHED TWO COLLEGE CHAPTERS—**GAMMA SIGMA/SAN DIEGO STATE** AND **EPSILON THETA/STETSON**—AND ESTABLISHED THREE OTHERS: **THETA MU/COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES**, **THETA NU/GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**, AND **THETA XI/UC SANTA CRUZ**.

**O**verviews of San Diego State, Stetson, Mines, and Georgia Tech appeared in the Spring/Summer issue of the Theta magazine; stories from the chartering of all five chapters will be published in the Winter and Spring 2017 issues. We hope you enjoy learning about the University of California Santa Cruz below.

Founded in 1965, UC Santa Cruz is a public research university and one of 10 campuses in the University of California system. UCSC is home to the oldest organic farm and garden program in the US, which has pioneered organic horticulture techniques internationally. It is also home to possibly the most unusual college mascot: the Banana Slug.

Offering 63 undergraduate majors and 35 minors, with graduate programs in 33 fields, UC Santa Cruz has a reputation for strong undergraduate support and student political activism. This fall, Kappa Alpha Theta will join two NPC groups (Gamma Phi Beta and Kappa Kappa Gamma) in the university's College Panhellenic Council.

If you'd like to learn more about the Theta Xi Chapter, visit [facebook.com](https://facebook.com) and type UCSC Kappa Alpha Theta in the search field. If you'd like to learn more about UC Santa Cruz, visit [www.ucsc.edu](http://www.ucsc.edu). ♦



UC SANTA CRUZ





## “WHAT DOES AN ARCHIVE INTERN DO?”

EACH SUMMER, A THETA COLLEGIAN HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AS AN INTERN IN THE THETA ARCHIVE AT HEADQUARTERS. OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, ARCHIVE INTERNS HAVE ASSISTED IN DIGITIZING AND CATALOGING MORE THAN 5,500 IMAGES, HELPED CONDUCT RESEARCH, WRITTEN BLOGS, AND LEARNED HOW THE ARCHIVE AND OTHER PROGRAMS SUPPORT THETA. THIS SUMMER'S INTERN, **ISABEL MULARONI, BETA TAU/DENISON**, WORKED ON A SPECIAL PROJECT THAT SHE DESCRIBES BELOW.

This summer, I was entrusted with the scanning and transcription of a wonderful scrapbook. We think it was assembled for Theta's centennial celebration in 1970. Its title, *Kappa Alpha Theta: The Early Years*, only begins to describe the incredible assemblage of photographs, letters, early histories, and even essays contained within its pages.

Early letters from Theta's founders offer words of sisterly love to the young women who were helping to carry Kappa Alpha Theta forward and support leading women in higher education. In 1917, Bettie Locke Hamilton wrote, “You go on in the work of uplifting the high ideals of Thetaism, and I will feel I have not worked in vain.” Hannah Fitch Shaw agrees, writing that she is “Very proud of the growth and development of Kappa Alpha Theta.”

The scrapbook also holds letters from alumnae writing to request the establishment of a Theta chapter at their local universities. One such letter, dated 1884, is from Mrs. Jenny Bovard, an Alpha Chapter alumna and wife of the first president of the University of Southern California. Already leading a literary society for women at USC, Bovard wrote about establishing a chapter of her beloved Fraternity “out West” in California.

She writes, “I am loyal and true to K.A.Θ.” and “... as to the quality, our young ladies are equal to those who established ... K.A.Θ.” which, she knows because “... your humble servant was one of that number.”

In 1887, her efforts came to fruition when Omicron

Chapter at USC was established. On the same page of the scrapbook is a letter sent from St. Joseph, Michigan—nearly 2,000 miles away—offering congratulations from two Thetas who “... think we could safely prophesy that Theta will one day have reason to be very proud of this chapter.”

There are also letters about early Conventions and district meetings. In 1872, Alice Brewer, Indiana Gamma/Moores Hill, wrote about not being able to attend the first Theta Convention because “I am teaching and my time is not my own.” An 1884 letter from Minnie Arbuckle Iddings, Nu/Hanover, instructs Thetas arriving for Convention: “We will receive you at Madison Ind. There are two trains, one at noon, another at 7:45 pm. No doubt it would be better and more convenient for you to come on the 7:45. Nevertheless we will meet both trains. I also call your attention to the section in the constitution about credentials, for fear in your haste you would forget. There will be a full dress reception Thursday night, but full dress at Hanover does not necessitate a very elaborate toilet. There will be dancing. The first session of the convention will meet Feb. 23 at 8 am.”

With the pages now digitized and the handwritten letters and reports transcribed, we can rediscover the treasures within the pages of this scrapbook and get to know the women who turned to Theta for a bond of friendship and support as they paved the way for women in higher education. ♦



Isabel Mularoni, BT/Denison

Want more?  
heritage.kappaalpha  
theta.org/



# HOW TO —

JOELLE K. JAY, PHD, BM/NEVADA, IS AN EXECUTIVE COACH, KEYNOTE SPEAKER, AND AUTHOR. SHE FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES AND STRATEGIZING WITH BUSINESS LEADERS TO ENHANCE THEIR PERFORMANCE AND MAXIMIZE PROFESSIONAL RESULTS. SHE SPECIALIZES IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE WOMEN.



## — MANAGE YOUR PERSONAL LEADERSHIP

BY LISA GEBKEN THIBAUT, EI/WESTMINSTER

**H**igh-achieving women want to excel in their personal and professional lives while at the same time benefit their companies with extraordinary results. Over time, the stress of achieving this level of success can take a toll. Successful women can become discouraged, lose motivation, and burn out, at a high cost to the organization and an even higher cost to themselves.

See if this sounds familiar: You are talented, high-achieving, and committed to success. Yet, despite your achievements,

- You feel overworked, overtaxed, and overtired;
- You feel you're giving 100 percent but not getting the results you want;
- You're crowded by the pressures of life and the demands to go, go, go;
- You find yourself making choices you don't want to make; and
- You don't have time to enjoy your success.

If this is you, there's good news! You can learn to lead yourself. This strategy is called personal leadership, and it allows you to achieve your vision and goals and protect your quality of life.

Below are 10 practices of personal leadership.

1. **Clarify your vision.** Clarifying means being able to connect clearly and instantly to your long- and short-term ideas about success.

2. **Get focused.** When you focus, you fix your attention on top priorities even when the world around you is pulling you away. Identify your top priorities and give them the attention they deserve.

3. **Take action.** The right actions will be the catalysts for change. Action items are the language of productivity in organizations, but as a leader, you need more than a task list. You need to practice the mind-sets and

approaches to decision-making that help you take only the most effective actions and leave the rest behind.

4. **Learn your strengths.** Tap into your brilliance by identifying what's exceptional about you, positive *and* negative, and use your uniqueness to your advantage.

5. **Live your values.** In order to be most effective as a leader, discover what drives you—your values, meaning and purpose—so that you feel fulfilled.

6. **Maximize your time.** You have more time than you think! Maximizing your time—as opposed to simply managing it—means to think differently about time and learn to do more with less.

7. **Build your team.** You don't have to go it alone. When you build a team, you develop advocates who will help you succeed.

8. **Learn the secrets.** True leaders keep adapting and improving in this world of unending change. As a leader, you need to think about the learning that's available to you and leverage it so you can sharpen your competitive edge.

9. **Discover how to see possibility.** By learning to see possibility, you will take advantage of the hidden opportunities around you, the ones most people miss.

10. **Understand what it means to you to have it all ... all at once.** You don't have to sacrifice some parts of your life to succeed in others. You can align and integrate your activities so you can enjoy and excel in every moment of being a leader and leading your life.

As a leader, you have many gifts to offer, and the real gift you have to give is yourself. What kind of gift do you want to be? By practicing personal leadership, you will discover what's truly possible for yourself as a leader. Suddenly "leadership" won't be just part of your job. It will become a way of life. ♦



Joelle Jay, BM/Nevada.

Joelle Jay is also the author of *The Inner Edge: The 10 Practices of Personal Leadership* and co-author of *The New Advantage: How Women in Leadership Can Create Win-Wins for Their Companies and Themselves*. To learn more, visit [www.TheInnerEdge.com](http://www.TheInnerEdge.com).

**Do you know (or know another Theta who knows) how to do something better?**

If so, please contact Lisa Thibault, website specialist, [lthibault@kappaalphatheta.org](mailto:lthibault@kappaalphatheta.org). We'd love to hear from you!



## SNAPSHOTS



## ALUMNAE

**A** Former Theta Foundation President **Kathy Bennett Tonkel**, H/Michigan, had lunch with **Jane Locke Fleming**, P/Nebraska.

**B** **Laura Gmeinder**, Ψ/Wisconsin, and **Christine Jones Benedict**, AΨ/Lawrence, were named in Madison, Wisconsin's *In Business Magazine's* 40 Under 40.

**C** **Ginny Hodgins Layton** and **Lynn Garrett Read**, both ΓΥ/Miami, celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> birthdays together with a week-long trip to Montana and Idaho.

**D** **Devin Beahm**, ΓΘ/Carnegie Mellon, works for the Pittsburgh Penguins NHL franchise and supported the team as they brought home the Stanley Cup.

**E** **Marissa Hall Wickboldt** and **Paula Dahlgren Newberg** enjoyed listening to **Carolyn Mescher** perform at the New Faces of Country Music event during the CMA Fest in Nashville. All three women are ΖΘ/Cal Poly.

**F** **Sherri Marie Carr**, ΔΦ/Clemson, and **Depri Hale**, BN/Florida State, snapped this photo at the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International Convention in Washington, DC.

**G** **Jen Divito** and **Stephanie Sasz**, both ΒΓ/Colorado State, summited Mt. Kilimanjaro this year!

**H** **Lucy Willis Rainey**, **Esther Ransom Husser**, **Sally Peck Cole**, **Jo Anne Gunby Connor**, **Fran Jarrell Lane**, **Lane Jennings Stewart**,

and **Sharry Brinson Shepard**, all ΓΔ/Georgia, gathered to celebrate Esther's completion of chemotherapy treatments.

**I** Alumnae members of **Alpha Upsilon/Washburn** get together several times a year for sisterhood and reminiscing. Pictured are **Darlene Elwood**, **Janet Northcraft**, **Jeanne Hoferer**, **Mayre Hoffman**, **Kathy Reser**, **Kathy Portman**, **Jeannie Nunn**, **Carla Hearrell**, **Jenifer Lucas**, and **Lynn England**.

**J** **Alpha Mu** sisters gathered to congratulate **Marcia Corbett**, AM/Missouri, for receiving Greater Kansas City Alumnae Chapter's 2016 Theta of the Year award. Pictured are **Clayton Hasser**, **Nancy Lear**, **Patty Nicholson**, **Katie Luck**, **Karen Adler**, **Marcia Corbett**, **Cindy Chesher**, **Nancy Bell**, **Jane Hart**, **Nancy Rafiner**, and **Charlene Brennan**.



**Kathleen Jones**, BK/Drake, **Pam Lund**, BK/Drake, **Denise Boring**, ΓΠ/Iowa State, **Kristi Mignano**, BK/Drake, **Laura Wootten**, ΔΦ/Clemson, and **Lynne Rockers**, ΔH/Kansas State, snapped this group photo at the Kansas City Alumnae Chapter CASA fundraiser called Flights and Kites.





**K** Members of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter—Jenni Scoggins, AO/Oklahoma, Barbara Cervin, AΘ/Texas, Maury Cunningham, ΓΥ/Miami, Sara Lytle, AΦ/Tulane, Francie Johnsen, EE/Baylor, Lynn Van Amburgh, ΔO/Alabama, Amy Dugan, AT/Ohio State, Taylor Teague, K/Kansas, Cori Bray, ΒΣ/SMU, and Anne Besser, K/Kansas—enjoyed the Dallas CASA Cherish the Children Luncheon.

**L** Several Thetas from the 1956 new member class from Gamma Pi/Iowa State visited the World of Coca-Cola in July. Pictured are Jan Sann Baldwin, Jan Polson Walkup, Linda Murray Emmerson, Jo Sjostrom Liddy, Marty Burleigh Gillin, Judy Wyma Covey, and Jackie Hohenboken Young.

**M** Martha Murphy, Λ/Vermont, was awarded Greek Woman of the Year by the Tidewater Area Panhellenic Association at their annual luncheon. Here she is pictured with fellow members of the Southeastern Virginia Alumnae Chapter.

**N** The Dallas Alumnae Chapter held a young alumnae kick-off party.

**O** Kappa Alpha Theta was represented by four college house directors at the AFLV's 2016 Fraternal House Directors Conference: Gail Mastin of Vanderbilt University, Jeanie VanMeter of Indiana University, Maureen Weber of the University of Florida, and JoAnn Rusk of The Ohio State University.

**P** Members of the Columbus Alumnae Chapter visited the Columbus Museum of Art and snapped this photo in the Picasso exhibit. In the photo are Pam Hecker Galipault, BA/William & Mary; Laurie McGregor Connor, ΓΔ/Ohio Wesleyan; Bev Payne Epps, ΓΥ/Miami; Debbie Hansen Lucas, AX/Purdue; Judy Wright Hays, Karen Titsch

Bright, and Brenda Dorn Conard, all AT/Ohio State; Janet Lowman Fox, ΓΥ/Miami; Millie Jenkins McVey, Sally Bell Riebel, and Julie Rains Nusken, all AT/Ohio State; and Mary Miller, ΓM/Maryland.

**Q** Catherine Lesan Markl, Φ/Pacific, writes children's books and creates two plush sheep to go with the books! Markl has also taught kindergarten and first and second grades, as well as managed her own nursery school.

Beta/Indiana alumnae met at the Beta facility for their 20-year reunion.







**A** Twelve alumnae from the 1966 new member class of **Alpha Sigma/Washington State** met for their annual reunion in Seattle.

**B** Members from **Beta Phi/Penn State** gathered for a mini-reunion in Florida. Pictured are **Bonnie Mitchell Rainey**, **Louise Keefer Fisher**, **Gretchen Huester Cole**, **Renee Lohagen Allen**, **Susan Green Batchelor**, and **Marty Humphrey Wright**.

**C** Five members of the 1960 new member class of **Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma** reunited in Santa Fe. Pictured are **Rose Lee Howard Robinson**, **Dugan Hendricks McElroy**, **Martha Taylor**

**Jones**, **Mary Lou Huff Bianchi**, and **Martha Watkins McElroy**.

**D** Several **Alpha Rho/South Dakota** members from the 1960 new member class reunited in Minnesota. Pictured are **Kathy Mitchell Weisz**, **Marti Stilwell Peterson**, **Karen Rabusch Pekas**, **Pam Johnson Whorley**, **Katie Johnson Howe**, **Fran Hagen Kibble**, and **Jane Shanard**.

**E** Members from **Alpha Epsilon/Brown** came together for their 25<sup>th</sup> reunion! Pictured are **Trisha Storms Christy**, **Jeanie Chang**, **Marisa Rosenberg Thalberg**, **Elyse Spector**

**Kalmans**, **Molly Shotwell Oelerich**, **Gwen Lloyd Burak**, and **Viraj Shroff-Mehta**.

**F** Seven **Beta Nu/Florida State** alumnae traveled to Orlando to show support for another Beta Nu sister who choreographed a musical.

**G** **Kelly Atkinson**, **Martta Howard**, **Denise Branagan Cooper**, and **Hilary Bassett Dickson**, all **EN/Virginia Tech**, reunited for a girl's weekend on Mackinaw Island.

**H** **Delta Omega/Texas A&M** had a fun new member presentation.

## THETAS OF NOTE



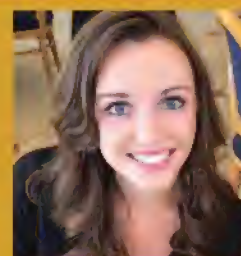
**Kimberly Stevens**, **BO/Iowa**, was inducted into the University of Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame. She is the first University of Iowa women's swimmer or diver to be inducted into the National Iowa Varsity Club Athletics Hall of Fame.



**Janet Myder**, **ΓΖ/Connecticut**, was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America during its annual conference in Raleigh, NC.



**Elaine Frontain Bryant**, **ΓΨ/TCU**, won an Emmy for her work as executive producer on the A&E network's "Born This Way." The show follows the lives of seven young adults born with Down Syndrome. This is Bryant's fourth nomination for this award.



**Angeline Brown**, **BE/Oregon State**, received her second Mary Richards Scholarship for working toward a career in the medical field, specifically pediatric nursing.

**Cristina Pruett**, **BE/UCLA**, is studying in the Duke Physician Assistant program with the support of a Theta Foundation scholarship.

**Sally Ann Draper Zoll**, **A/DePauw**, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Community Service Hero Award for the nonprofit organization United Through Reading, for helping military families maintain bonds during deployment by reading together via video.

**Mackenzie Ritter**, **BT/Denison**, was recognized by Denison University for her summer internship at Amazon.

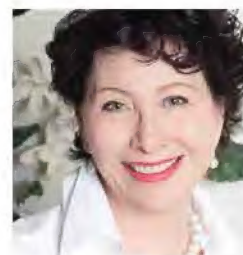


# THETA AUTHORS

**Karna Small Bodman, H/Michigan**, has published four novels. Her latest is titled *Castle Bravo* and follows the story of a potential staggering threat to the country's national security. Bodman spent six years working in the the Reagan White House, worked as a TV news reporter, and hosted a news talk radio program prior to becoming a novelist.



**Brenda West Cockerell, ΓΦ/Texas Tech**, introduced her first children's book, *In Grandma's Garden*. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sales of this book will benefit breast cancer research and support initiatives through The Beacon Family Foundation.



**Colleen Keough Wagner, Δ/Illinois**, released her second novel, *What the Clocks Know*. Wagner said that this story was developed through her journey of moving to the United Kingdom: "I was naïve and lost, and in navigating my way through international relocation, I had to renegotiate my identity as well—but from that early turmoil, this story was born." "She writes under then pen name Rumer Haven.



**Kelly Rahn Radi, ΑΠ/North Dakota**, wrote a book called *Out to Sea: A Parents' Survival Guide to the Freshman Voyage*, designed to help parents navigate through the emotional transition from high school to college. The book covers many aspects of freshman year, from packing checklists to health and wellness.



**Julia Claiborne Johnson, ΔΧ/Virginia**, wrote *Be Frank With Me*, a story about a mother, her son, and a young woman who finds herself pulled into their world. The book was featured in *People Magazine* and on *USA Today's* New & Noteworthy book list.



**Len Bourland, ΑΗ/Vanderbilt**, published a memoir, *Normal's Just a Cycle on a Washing Machine*. Bourland is well known to many in the Southeast and Southwest for her award-winning humor columns.



**Louise Phipps Senft, ΔΧ/Virginia**, co-authored a book with her husband titled *Being Rational: The Seven Ways to Quality Interaction & Lasting Change*. The book discusses the effect that interaction with others can have on your well-being.



**Liz Pryor, K/Kansas**, wrote the bestseller *Look at You Now: My Journey from Shame to Strength*. The story recounts Pryor's high school pregnancy and the ways in which her parents took every measure to keep the situation secret. It's a captivating commentary on shame, class status, and societal norms.



**Lynn Wilson, B/Indiana**, published an entertainment cookbook titled *At Ease: A Salute to Creative Entertaining*. Wilson collected recipes and party ideas while her husband was in the army for 38 years. She said that socializing with the neighbors in their unit kept her grounded and was her inspiration for writing this entertainment cookbook.



**Nancy Washburne, H/Michigan**, has dedicated more than 20 years of her life to educating people about the quality of Michigan's water resources and preserving them for future generations. She published the book *Snorkeling Guide to Michigan Inland Lakes* and created the website [snorkelmichigan.com](http://snorkelmichigan.com) to further her cause.

**Gwen Banta, Γ/Butler**, wrote *The Fly Strip* as her debut novel. It is a coming-of-age story centered on a young man dealing with racial unrest in the Midwest in the 1960s. Banta is also a television, film, and stage actress. ◇



**Tabitha Dye, ΗΘ/Central Florida**, wrote a love-filled drama called *The Burden of Trust*. At the age of 20, Dye was published in *Families Like Mine*, which is what really sparked her passion for storytelling.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT READING WOMEN, THETA'S ONLINE BOOK CLUB, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND TYPE READING WOMEN IN THE SEARCH FIELD.



*Reading Women*  
A THETA BOOK CLUB



A notice of the death of a Theta sister may be sent to Gretchen Brown, membership coordinator. (Her contact information may be found on page 2.) A published death notice, whether print or electronic, is appreciated.

# A/DEPAUW

Susan Stark Bastian; 1950, July 2016  
Carole Cones Bradfield; 1968, Aug. 2016  
Joan Stephens McKay; 1948, Dec. 2015  
Nan Warren Miller; 1949, May 2016

# B/INDIANA

Martha Stephenson Graham; 1932, April 2016  
Peggy Yockey Thomson; 1946, Oct. 2015

# Γ/BUTLER

Karen Hayes Bailey; 1959, July 2016  
Geraldine Houghteling Lee; 1939, July 2016

# Δ/ILLINOIS

Margaret Church Minalga Booth; 1944, March 2016

# H/MICHIGAN

Louise Gibson Garrison; 1958, March 2016  
Dorothy Rybolt Weight; 1939, April 2016

# I/CORNELL

Betty Miller Barrett; 1945, May 2015

# K/KANSAS

Betty Roberts Anderson; 1941, April 2016  
Kathleen McBride Hall; 1946, April 2016  
Margaret Morse Stark; 1938, June 2016  
Ina Roderick Lasley Wells; 1946, May 2016  
Winifred Wright Danenbarger Wilson; 1930, March 2015

# Λ/VERMONT

Louise Bull Tenander; 1936, April 2016

# Γ<sup>o</sup>/OHIO WESLEYAN

Arline Lennox Bingham; 1937, May 2016  
Nancy Rulketter Fairhurst; 1950, May 2016  
Marie Nickles Gardner; 1944, April 2016  
Elinor Johnson Schaible Garriques; 1938, June 2016  
Marion Schlesinger John; 1929, Feb. 2016  
Betty Fitzgerald Kettler; 1950, May 2016

# O/USC

Olive Grainger Bundgard; 1945, June 2016  
Delphine Viault Haze; 1957, July 2016

# P/NEBRASKA

Mary Joann Jeffers-Gorman; 1949, Nov. 2015

# T/NORTHWESTERN

Barbara Felt; 1960, June 2016  
Delia Hattendorf Fine; 1970, April 2016  
Victoria Grant Glandon; 1970, Aug. 2015

# X/SYRACUSE

Carol Simons Mercer; 1935, June 2016  
Marian Westly Moynihan; 1948, Jan. 2016  
Patricia A. Smith; 1969, Feb. 2016

# ΑΓ/OHIO STATE

Mary Miller Brownlee; 1958, June 2016  
Jane Hoag Eysen; 1948, Dec. 2015  
Jane Hamilton Garvin; 1942, Nov. 2015  
Elaine Riggs Heilman; 1943, May 2016  
Martha Squier Roth; 1936, Sept. 2015  
Velma Sater Williams; 1951, April 2016

# ΑΔ/GOUCHER

Edna Jurgens Edwards; 1940, Jan. 2015

# ΑΗ/VANDERBILT

Patricia Kirkman Colton; 1949, June 2016

# ΑΘ/TEXAS

Deanna Dorchester Bradshaw; 1960, May 2016  
Mary Hall Carter; 1943, July 2016  
Frances Morrison Hammond; 1950, July 2016  
Eugenia Mahone Harrell; 1957, June 2016  
Suzanne Rieker Harvey; 1942, July 2016  
Nancy Brooks Neild; 1956, June 2016  
Judith Stewart Nowlin; 1950, May 2016  
Frances Hackney Sutton; 1950, Feb. 2016

# ΑΙ/WASHINGTON-ST. LOUIS

Shirley Martin Bassett; 1941, June 2016  
Frances Willert Bristow; 1936, June 2016

# ΑΛ/WASHINGTON

Sally Easterbrook; 1950, May 2016  
Patricia Anderson Gebert; 1939, Dec. 2015

# ΑΜ/MISSOURI

Doris Deaderick Schroeder; 1940, Oct. 2015

# ΑΝ/MONTANA

Margaret Crossen Ottman; 1945, May 2016

# ΑΞ/OREGON

Dana Peterson Moreland; 1956, April 2016  
Susan O'Connor; 1959, Dec. 2015

# ΑΟ/OKLAHOMA

Mary Emily Snyder Basolo; 1944, Feb. 2015  
Carol Young Calder; 1949, April 2016  
Mary Lynn Douglas Coury; 1957, July 2016  
Ronnie Claire Edwards; 1952, June 2016  
Kathryn Finley Greaves; 1954, May 2016  
Sarah J. Jones; 1957, April 2016  
Mary Lou Stewart Kirkhuff; 1946, May 2016

# ΑΠ/NORTH DAKOTA

Essie McCreery Lyons; 1955, April 2016

# ΑΤ/CINCINNATI

Alberta Caine Storey; 1948, April 2016  
Lucy Mathers Ward; 1942, April 2016

# ΑΥ/WASHBURN

Bette Lenington Anton; 1943, June 2016  
Nancy Owsley Toedman; 1955, April 2016

# ΑΦ/TULANE

Nancy Wilkins Dolph; 1944, July 2016  
Betty Baucum Jackson; 1944, Aug. 2015  
Joy Harper Marshall; 1945, April 2015

# ΑΧ/PURDUE

Gertrude Johnson Bernet; 1945, Sept. 2015  
Sandra Landree Duwe; 1962, May 2016  
Virginia Alberty Kuncce; 1948, Jan. 2016  
Elizabeth Lewis Lawrence; 1940, Apr. 2016  
Jane Scarff McKinney; 1943, July 2016  
Marilyn Olsen Redman; 1956, April 2016  
Kathleen Olvey Young; 2008, July 2016

# ΑΨ/LAWRENCE

Gloria Gentelene Eckman; 1944, April 2016

# ΒΓ/COLORADO STATE

Doris Carlson Dreher Knaus; 1941, June 2015

# ΒΔ/ARIZONA

Susan Hurley DeConcini; 1955, April 2016  
Bettye Dammier Griggs; 1952, Feb. 2016

# ΒΕ/OREGON STATE

Marian Ure Nixon; 1952, March 2016  
Virginia Holloman Wentworth; 1944, July 2016

# ΒΖ/OKLAHOMA STATE

Audrey Clifton Brown; 1939, Feb. 2016  
Deanne Cashman Garrison; 1966, June 2016  
Patricia Rush Krause; 1960, March 2016  
Marianna Bechtel Powers; 1954, March 2016  
Anita Salz Randall; 1942, Feb. 2016  
Katherine Orth Scharlach; 1942, June 2016  
Alice Hallum Snyder; 1940, Jan. 2015  
Dorothy Williams Whiteaker; 1949, March 2016

# ΒΙ/COLORADO

Katherine Hart Borth; 1962, June 2016  
Gretchen Hartley Sorenson; 1954, March 2016

# ΒΚ/DRAKE

Mary Kay Cunningham Conley; 1955, May 2016  
Elizabeth Strain Gardner; 1970, April 2016

# ΒΛ/WILLIAM & MARY

Virginia Hawkins Smith Riordan; 1946, April 2016

# ΒΝ/FLORIDA STATE

Barbara Boyden Morgan Reed; 1947, Oct. 2015  
Suzanne McCormick Rickards; 1953, July 2016  
Florence Hield Royall; 1941, June 2016

# ΒΞ/UCLA

Mary Mac Short Gonzalez; 1951, May 2016

# ΒΟ/IOWA

Patricia Doerschlen Donnell; 1950, May 2016

# ΒΠ/MICHIGAN STATE

Doris Brown Bennett; 1940, May 2016  
Janet Richter Buth; 1952, May 2016  
Marilynn Hill Duncan; 1944, Nov. 2015  
Ann Alling Edwards; 1943, June 2016  
Judith Hall Falls; 1962, April 2016  
Vivian Knepp Long; 1935, March 2016  
Suzanne Fuller McGivney; 1948, June 2016  
Pamela Harbison Radcliffe; 1964, May 2015  
Virginia Swank Rankin; 1953, Feb. 2016

# ΒΣ/SMU

Francie Foote Ehrich; 1939, July 2016  
Jane Ballew Mitchell; 1946, March 2016

# ΒΤ/DENISON

Helen Boggis Burdg; 1942, May 2016  
Maria Vigliucci Crozier; 2003, May 2015  
Katharine Schell Kimbriel; 1951, July 2016

# ΒΦ/PENN STATE

Shirley Choate Chaiken; 1955, Feb. 2016

# ΒΧ/ALBERTA

Corinne Latham Cooper; 1948, May 2016

# ΓΓ/ROLLINS

Yvonne Fulton; 1946, April 2016

# ΓΔ/GEORGIA

Florine Allen Henderson; 1939, June 2016

# ΓΖ/CONNECTICUT

Priscilla Bourne Anderson; 1942, June 2016  
Maureen Fritz Lange; 1954, July 2016

# ΓΘ/CARNEGIE MELLON

Miriam Archer Jeske; 1952, May 2016

# ΓΜ/MARYLAND

Gretchen Scholl Burbage; 1955, April 2016  
Carla Commons; 1974, June 2016  
Rhonda Beckman D'Amico; 1977, June 2016  
Gertrude Bonnet Lain; 1954, April 2016

# ΓΕ/SAN JOSE STATE

Shirley Hansen Anderson; 1957, July 2016  
Virginia Miller Hartinger; 1948, Feb. 2015  
Sue Ann McKay Zulauf; 1960, June 2015

# ΓΠ/IOWA STATE

Jody Riser Knudsen; 1957, April 2016  
Nancy Huffman Wenzler; 1949, June 2016

# ΓΡ/UC SANTA BARBARA

Adele Tatum Ball; 1950, Aug. 2015  
Martha Higgin Elliott; 1966, Dec. 2015

# ΓΦ/TEXAS TECH

Nancy Stephens Hart; 1965, July 2016

# ΓΧ/FRESNO STATE

Mary Fennacy Lynch Wiens; 1959, March 2016  
Ledell Goodrich Woody; 1953, April 2016  
Sally MacLas Wright; 1953, June 2016

# ΓΨ/TCU

Carol Bayless Fleming; 1970, Oct. 2015  
Shannon Smith Meggs; 1975, May 2016

# ΔΕ/ARIZONA STATE

Sarah Dickinson Grant; 1961, April 2016

# ΔΗ/KANSAS STATE

Ann Arnott; 1963, Aug. 2015

# ΔΝ/ARKANSAS

Donna Burnett Freyaldenhoven; 1980, May 2016

# ΔΟ/TEXAS A&M

Angela Francis Jenkins; 1989, July 2016

# ΕΘ/STETSON

Jennifer Paquette Heneghan; 1985, March 2015

# ΖΨ/SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Amy Pritchard Hannon; 1998, April 2016 ♦

Dates represent year of initiation and month and year of death.



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Silver Rush

By I. Mitchell, KAΘ Epsilon Mu Chapter



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Kappa Alpha Theta said today that its foundation will raise \$1 million over the next three years to help National Court Appointed Special Advocates launch an initiative to ensure better outcomes for children and teenagers in foster care, as well as those moving through the court system. (POLITICO.COM, 6.28.2016)

TRUE LEADERS  
KEEP ADAPTING  
AND IMPROVING  
IN THIS WORLD  
OF UNENDING  
CHANGE.

JOELLE JAY, BM/NEVADA (SEE PAGE 29)

Especially after attending Grand Convention this June, I find myself as part of an organization of truly leading women. JACKIE MEYER, ΘΛ/ROCHESTER (SEE PAGE 5)

In fall 2011, Kappa Alpha Theta implemented changes to the titles of its chapter officers, moving from “president” to “CEO” and eliminating “vice president” in favor of more specific titles like “chief financial officer.” (THE ATLANTIC.COM, 9.9.2016)

IF I'M STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO EAT, IT BETTER BE CHEESE. BROOKE JOHNSON, T/NORTHWESTERN (GRAND CONVENTION, 6.24.2016)

Theta's tagline is about more than sisterhood; it's about enabling, mentoring, and fostering growth in women.

GRETCHEN WHERRY WEST, ΕΨ/RICHMOND (SEE PAGE 11)

My best friends to this day are women I met because of Theta.

JESSICA LEE, ΦΨ/STANFORD (SEE PAGE 10)